

## Group claims killing Egyptian general

CAIRO (AFP) — A militant underground group, Al Jama'a al Islamiyah, claimed responsibility Saturday for killing a police general, a police officer and a passerby in two attacks last week. In a statement obtained by AFP, the group said the murder Wednesday of General Mahmoud Al Dib, chief police investigator in southern Qena province, and Tuesday's killing of Lieutenant-Colonel Abu Bakr Salem in nearby Abu Tig were the work of its "armed forces." Gen. Dib's killers wounded two policemen accompanying him, along with three passerby, one of whom later died of her wounds. The murders were carried out as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak "pretended in America and France that security reigns in Egypt and the extremists have been wiped out," the group's statement said. "Security will never reign in Egypt until Islamic law enters the statute books and Mubarak's junta persists" in governing, it added. Mr. Mubarak returned here Saturday from an eight-day tour of the United States and France, with a last-minute stopover in Syria. An Egyptian military court on Saturday condemned to death eight members of another underground Islamic group, and handed down long prison terms for a plot to overthrow the government (see page 10).

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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## Russia demands loan for Libyan vote

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Russia is demanding an interest-free loan from the West as a condition for supporting new sanctions against Libya for sheltering two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, a victim's relative says. Susan Cohen, whose daughter was among the 270 people killed in the 1988 bombing, said she learned from government sources that Moscow was seeking the loan. The loan would compensate Russia for \$4 billion it would lose from the tightened sanctions. Moscow says Libya owes it that amount for past military and commercial trade. Russia has threatened to veto the new sanctions unless its debt with Libya is addressed. The United States, Britain and France are anxious for the Security Council to slap new sanctions on Libya for refusing to turn over the suspects in the Flight 103 case. The new sanctions would freeze Libya's assets abroad but exclude its source of biggest foreign currency earnings, future sales of oil and petroleum products. Some Libyan oil equipment purchases would be banned. Current sanctions bar the sale of arms, as well as air links and diplomatic embargo from Libya. They were approved in April 1992.

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## Hadid replaces Hamami; envoys named

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday decided to appoint Khaled Madadha as Jordan's ambassador to Belgium, Trad Al Fayez as ambassador to Qatar and Amjad Majali as ambassador to Greece. The Cabinet decided to retire Ambassador Nasser Al Bataineh as of Dec. 1, 1993. The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, also appointed Nayef Al Hadid as secretary-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He will be replacing Hussein Hamami, who has been named ambassador of Jordan to Morocco.

## Arabs, Jews protest Jerusalem plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and an Israeli peace group demonstrated in Ras Al Amud in Arab West Jerusalem on Saturday against plans by the Jerusalem municipality to establish a new Jewish neighbourhood there. Several hundred protesters also called for Jerusalem to be declared the joint capital of both Israelis and Palestinians. "I hope that we will see more people who are really convinced about the peace and about two capitals in one city," Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein told reporters. The Israeli group Gush Shalom (Peace Bloc) urged Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek, to come out against the plan for the new neighbourhood approved by the municipality. Mr. Kolek is standing for reelection on Tuesday after 28 years in office. His main opponent is former Health Minister Ehud Olmert.

## Israel to submit list of prisoners

NICOSIA (AFP) — Israel will hand over to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Monday a "substantial" list of Palestinian prisoners it plans to release, Israeli Ambassador to France Yehouda Lancry said in a radio interview Saturday. Speaking on Radio Monte Carlo, Mr. Lancry said Israeli negotiators would hand over a list of prisoners to be freed which was "very substantial in terms of quantity" to their Palestinian counterparts in autonomy talks in Taba, Egypt. "I am not able to give precise numbers," he told the radio station. Some 617 prisoners were released last week. Palestinian negotiators say all 11,000 Palestinian detainees should be freed under the terms of the Sept. 13 autonomy accord with Israel.

## Hamas claim of killing settler sparks Israeli riot

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The fundamentalist Hamas movement claimed responsibility Saturday for the killing of a Jewish settler in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The claim triggered an explosion of rage by thousands of Jewish settlers who smashed and stoned Arab cars, burned tyres and blocked most highways in West Bank.

"We kidnapped the settler Chaim and stabbed him and burned his body and took his personal weapon which is an Uzi machine gun," a Hamas spokesman said in a telephone call to the Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MEBC). Security sources said earlier the army had found the body of Chaim Mizrahi, a Jewish settler abducted by masked men near the West Bank town of Ramallah on Friday. The army said it was still checking the identity of the scorched body.

Hamas opposes the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord on Palestinian self-rule signed in Washington last month. Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Israel would not let fundamentalist groups derail its peace talks with the PLO. "There should be no illusions about our resolve to use the full extent of the law and all our force against those who perpetrate attacks," Mr. Shahal told Israel armed forces radio.

Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein said he was "tired" of the violence.

about the killing. "We are so sad about any killing, Palestinian or Israeli, and we hope that these activities will stop," Mr. Hussein told reporters in Jerusalem.

The fresh flareup of extremist violence came at a time when Israel and the PLO reported some progress in their talks on autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Israeli reports have said that in the fourth round of talks, to begin Monday in the Egyptian resort of Taba, Israel would submit timetables for troop withdrawal and the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners. Under the Israel-PLO accord, the army pullout from Gaza and Jericho is to begin Dec. 13 and be completed by April 13.

Thousands of Jewish settlers took to the streets Saturday evening.

Settlers blocked most intersections in the West Bank and burned tyres, said Shai Bazak, a settler spokesman. About 200 settlers from Mizrahi's settlement of Beit El rampaged through the nearby Palestinian town of Al Birh. Swinging clubs, they smashed dozens of car windows, Arab reporters said. Several of the damaged cars belonged to guests attending a wedding in a nearby park.

North of Jerusalem, women settlers erected makeshift roadblocks with stones and bricks.

Outside of Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin's home about 150 settlers chanted "Rabin is a traitor."

Also Saturday, a Palestinian involved in large-scale land sales to Jewish settlements was killed in the West Bank town of Kalkilya while buying decorations for his daughter's wedding.

Israel radio said two assailants burst into the gift shop, stabbed Ahmad Odeh Arar, seized his pistol and shot him in the head. The army said Arar, 50, was dead on arrival at Meir hospital in the nearby Israeli town of Kfar Sava.

Arar was one of the biggest land dealers in the West Bank, and was about to close a sale of private Arab lands for the enlargement of Jewish settlements in the area, the radio said.

In other developments Saturday:

— In Gaza's Rafah refugee camp, some 3,000 Palestinian women marched to demand the immediate release of the about 9,500 Palestinians jailed by Israel. Some 600 were freed last week, but Israel conditioned further releases on progress in Taba.

— In Gaza City's Shifa hospital, a Palestinian doctor was abducted at gunpoint by two masked men, Arab reporters said. The physician, Dr. Mohammad Abu Eneem, is affiliated with the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction, but it was not clear whether the abduction was politically motivated.

## King visits family of killed officer, wounded soldiers



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday visits the family of Hussein Mohammad Ali, an army officer who was killed in a shootout Friday.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday visited the family of an army officer killed in a shootout with three gunmen at a military checkpoint near Karameh in the Jordan Valley on the ceasefire line with Israel, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The agency said the King, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Ali and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Miral, condoled the family of Hussein Mohammad Ali.

The family of the officer, who was buried with full military honours at his hometown of Deir Abi Saeed in the Irbid Governorate, expressed deep appreciation of the King's gesture of sympathy and reiterated their allegiance to the Hashemite throne, Petra said.

The King also visited the five soldiers wounded in Friday's confrontation being treated at the King Hussein Medical Centre and wished them speedy recovery, the agency said.

The French news agency, AFP, meanwhile quoted an unidentified official as saying that the attack was the work of an Islamic militant group. An army statement issued Friday said the three gunmen were spotted near the military point and they ignored orders to identify themselves and opened fire first.

The assailants were identified by the official quoted by AFP as one Jordanian and

two Arabs. But "the motives of the attack on Friday were unclear, the official said, declining to identify their group," the agency said.

"The aim was probably not to infiltrate Israel because they would have avoided attacking the Jordanian army post," the official was quoted as saying by AFP.

"The official said the attack could have been in protest at Jordan's signing on Sept. 14 in Washington of an agenda for further peace negotiations with Israel," AFP said.

Also on Saturday, the King visited several units of the Armed Forces.

Petra said the King's first stop was at the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division, where he addressed the unit and expressed pride in the Armed Forces' efforts and defence of the Arab Homeland.

He quoted the King as saying that he was happy to be among "the people who

shield the nation and homeland."

The King also visited a unit of the air force.

Jordan Television showed the King addressing officers and soldiers, expressing hope that the Parliament expected to be elected on Nov. 8 would "include the best of representatives who will be able to reflect the people's aspirations and hopes."

The King also said he hoped that all parties concerned would ensure that the elections would be fair and honest.

"I don't frankly appreciate the fact that we have 20 parties plus one," he said. "I believe this is a stage in our life that we have to pass through, and may be the next elections or those after that would give better results."

The King expressed hope that all Jordanians would "fulfill their duties and take active part in the elections."

## Mubarak meets Assad, predicts progress this year

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday he expected progress in Syrian-Israeli peace talks in the next two months, according to the official Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA).

Mr. Mubarak said he expected progress "in a month, or by the year's end at the latest," MENA reported.

He was speaking after meeting with President Hafez Al Assad in Syria in a bid to revive stalled peace talks between Syria and Israel.

Mr. Mubarak flew back to Egypt after his three-hour stopover in the Mediterranean town of Latakia, which came at the end of week-long trip to the United States and France.

Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and meetings Mr. Mubarak held with President Bill Clinton and President Francois Mitterrand during his trip, Syrian officials said.

Mr. Assad said after the meeting that he would not budge from his principle of "land for peace" with Israel, demanding the return of all Arab territories seized by the Jewish state.

Peace talks between Israel and Syria are bogged down over the issue of the Golan Heights.

## Working group on water adopts Jordanian canal project

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The working group discussing water-sharing as part of the multi-lateral phase of the Middle East peace process has endorsed a Jordanian plan to build a multi-purpose canal linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea.

The decision, which turned down an Israeli proposal to link the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea, was announced at a meeting of the working group on water in Beijing.

The World Bank has expressed willingness to consider financing a feasibility study of the project.

The working group on water will meet next in Canada in April.

According to Munther Haddadin, who headed the Jordanian delegation to the talks, the endorsed project entails building 280 kilometres of open canals and pipelines from Jordan's Red Sea coast at Aqaba.

The project, estimated to cost \$1.5 billion, will help raise the receding level of the Dead Sea so that the environmental features of the area could be protected and the historical level of the Dead Sea could be maintained, Dr.

Haddadin has said.

He said the Dead Sea had fallen from its historic level as a result of the diminishing volume of water from the River Jordan, evaporation and industrial use by mineral extracting plants on the Jordanian and Israeli shores.

The declining level, he explained, leads to seepages from the aquifers in the area.

"It is important to keep the Dead Sea at its historic levels," he said. "The importance of that is environmental," but (also) the preservation of aquifers on our sides.

The additional advantages of the project, which will

benefit all the three riparians of the Dead Sea — Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians — include possibilities of desalination of the Red Sea water, development of the arid, mostly desert region in the south as well as hydro-electric power generation.

The Israeli project to link the Mediterranean Sea with the Dead Sea was estimated to cost \$3 billion. It was shelved six years ago because of the high cost.

However, the Sept. 13 agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) includes a clear reference to the project.

## Tribal split favours parties in Amman's Fifth District

This is the first in a series of articles on candidates, their campaigns, strategies and chances for the Nov. 8 elections in individual constituencies.

By Amman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The adverse impact that the change in the Election Law is expected to have on the performance of large well-organised political groups in the coming parliamentary elections will be offset in constituencies where dominant tribes fail to put their weight behind one family candidate.

The introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula into the electoral process has been expected to work to the disadvantage of political parties, favouring tribal candidates if they managed to have the undivided support of their clans.

Many tribes, however, have failed to agree on one candidate, strengthening the chances of political parties which are also trying to minimise the impact of the new law on their performance by fielding candidates who enjoy strong tribal support.

In Karak, for instance, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) has fielded two candidates from the prominent Majali

tribe in order to split the tribal vote and better the chances of its other candidates.

In Zarqa, one of the candidates comes from the large Bani Hassan tribe, whose various clans have not agreed on a single candidate. A clearer example of where tribal divisions are most likely to play into the hands of political parties, mainly the IAF, is Amman's Fifth District, where 42 candidates are competing for the constituency's four Muslim and one Circassian parliamentary seats.

The IAF is fielding four candidates in this district, geographically the largest district in Amman, which includes Jubeiha, Abu Nuseir, Shafa Badran, Sweilch, Tla' Al Ali, Khaledeh, Umm Al Summaq, Wadi Seer, Marj Al Hammam, Naour and Um Al Basateen, in an attempt to repeat its electoral gains of 1989 when Islamic hardliners Hammam Said, Mohammad Abu Fares and Daoud Kojak won the elections on the ticket of the Muslim Brotherhood. The other two seats

went to Ahmad Al Abbadi, an independent with Islamist and east Jordanian nationalist leanings from the large Abbadi tribe, and Ata Shahwan, also an independent, from the Ajarmeh tribe.

Observers believe the IAF will manage to fare well in this district, mainly due to two reasons. The first is that the district has traditionally been one of the Islamists' strongholds. The second is that the tribal vote will be split among nine candidates from the Abbadi tribe, seven candidates from the Ajarmeh tribes, two candidates from the Adwan tribe, some of whose members are running in the Balqa District and three candidates from the Asaf clan.

The outly tribe in the district which is unanimous in supporting one candidate is the Lawzi tribe in the Jubeiha area.

The tribe's candidate Miflah Al Lawzi lost his bid for election in 1989 with narrow margin. Observers say Mr. Lawzi has good relations with residents of Jubeiha and has a good chance of winning the majority of its 9,000 registered voters, especially that

two members of his tribe had reversed their decision to run for election to support his candidacy.

The IAF's third candidate is Nimr Al Asaf, who is competing for his clan's votes against two other candidates.



Mr. Kojak, the IAF candidate for the Circassian seat, is challenged by three other Circassians of whom at least one, Munir Souber, has the support of the majority of the community. Observers say the Circassians do not see Mr. Kojak as their top choice because he is running on the IAF ticket and are more likely to support Mr. Souber. And even though Mr. Kojak has a strong base in his hometown of Naour, his chances are reduced by the new electoral rules which deny him the second or third votes of IAF supporters from outside the Circassian community.

What could work against Mr. Souber, however, is the expected split of the Circassian vote among the other two candidates, Adel Ramadan and Zahdi Noor.

Another Islamist group, the moderate Islamic Dur'a which includes Christians in its ranks, is fielding two candidates in the district, but observers believe the movement would not be able to wrest much of the Islamists' votes from the IAF.

"The Islamist vote will go to hardcore Muslim Brotherhood candidates" said Mr. Shahwan, who is seeking reelection.

Despite the split among the vote of the Abbadi tribe, observers expect former Deputy Ahmad Al Abbadi to win the majority of the tribe's votes, especially that he has the support of the 1,200 eligible voters of the Sakameh clan, an offshoot of the Abbadis.

While some observers say the split of the Ajarmeh vote in the areas of Naour and Um Al Basateen among seven candidates is expected to close the doors of the 12th Parliament before all the candidates of the Ajarmeh,

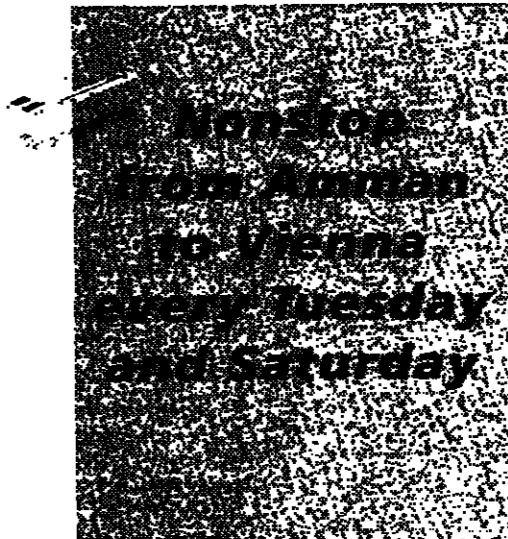
which is formed of a number of clans, Ata Al Shahwan says he will be competing for the highest number of votes with IAF candidate Hammam Said.

Mr. Shahwan says the high number of aspirants among the tribes of the Fifth District will not weaken the chances of the major tribal candidates because many of them do not have any tribal base within the tribe.

"There are people who try to promote some candidates even though they have no tribal base because they want to weaken their opponents," says Mr. Shahwan, who rejects being labelled as a tribal candidate because he says he is running as a candidate for all Jordanians.

Candidate Mijhem Adwan agrees. He says that voters are going to support candidates who can provide them with services.

Mr. Shahwan and Mr. Adwan say people are no longer interested in slogans but observers believe the "Yes, Islam is the solution" slogan of the IAF will still assure the IAF of enough support when the Fifth District's 94,897 eligible voters cast their ballots on Nov. 8.



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## U.S. to defray Israel's costs of accord with PLO

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Clinton administration has opened talks with Congress on defraying costs to Israel for carrying out its accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

No new appropriations will be sought, the officials said. Rather, the funds will come from cuts made in loans to Israel because it constructed new settlements, or from other programmes.

The Israeli operations that might be covered include the redeployment of security forces from Gaza and Jericho, which are to be put under Palestinian administration under the agreement with the PLO.

"What we have said to the Israelis as they incur costs with regard to the implementation of the declaration of principles, which in fact they will incur, is that we would look for ways to try and defray those costs," Dennis Ross, the department's Middle East envoy, told a conference of the National Association of Arab-Americans.

"We will try to look for flexible ways to respond to the costs that they incur," he added.

Department spokesman Michael McCarry and other officials later confirmed preliminary consultations with Congress had begun.

Israel had pledged \$25 million in grants and another \$50 million in credits to help the Palestinians establish autonomy.

The United States has pledged \$75 million in grants in each of the next two years and

\$100 million in credits.

Altogether, 46 nations have promised to give the PLO and the Palestinians grants and loans of nearly \$2 billion.

Mr. Ross, who returned last week from talks with Israeli and Arab leaders, said Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan were all eager to move beyond the Palestinian agreement and reach settlements on other fronts.

This conflicted with persistent reports from Syria that it is unwilling to make a commitment to another round of negotiations unless Israel signals its readiness to relinquish the Golan Heights.

No date has been set for resuming negotiations in Washington, nor has Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced plans to go to the area in the near future.

Mr. Ross also told his Arab-American audience Arab states should lift their economic boycott of Israel. "It represents a continuing refusal to Israel, seemingly a symbolic statement that Israel is not welcome in the region. Following Israel's bold step in recognising the PLO, it deserves better," he said.

He also made a strong new pitch for Arab states to end their boycott of Israel and later told reporters he believed Syria remained committed to the Mideast peace process and would not impose new conditions on talks with Israel.

On lifting the Arab boycott — an effort which Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has cautioned Washington against pushing too hard — Mr. Ross

said it must be ended and warned that if it is not, it would hurt Palestinians more than Israel.

**Saudis contact Israeli firm**

Saudi Arabian businessmen have contacted an Israeli construction firm about buying 34 homes built for Jewish settlers and renting them to Palestinians, the firm's director said.

There have been no buyers for the homes at Karnet Shomron in the West Bank since the government imposed a construction freeze on that settlement and others in the occupied territories, Falkobi director Gad Mahluf said.

"We have been contacted by a group of Saudi businessmen through a Palestinian entrepreneur who say they are interested in buying 34 villas," Mr. Mahluf said.

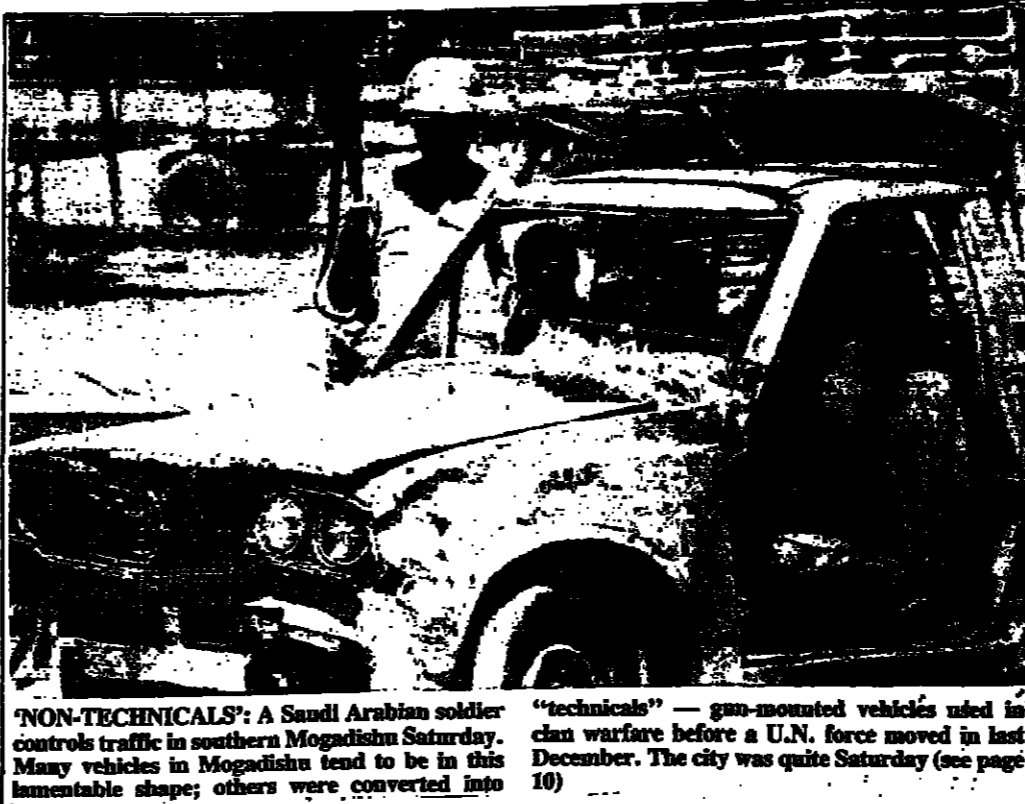
He mentioned no names or prices.

"We would prefer to sell to Israelis but if we do not find buyers, we will sell to the Saudis if that is legally possible," he said.

Gabriel Botbol, the mayor of Karnet Shomron where some 2,000 settlers live, has asked the housing ministry to forbid such a sale.

"The homes were built for Jewish settlers. It is unthinkable for Palestinians to move in there," Mr. Botbol told AFP.

The government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last year imposed a partial freeze on settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a gesture to promote the Arab-Israeli peace talks.



**'NON-TECHNICALS':** A Saudi Arabian soldier controls traffic in southern Mogadishu Saturday. Many vehicles in Mogadishu tend to be in this lamentable shape; others were converted into "technical" — gun-mounted vehicles used in clan warfare before a U.N. force moved in last December. The city was quite Saturday (see page 10)

## Rebels see democracy in post-Qadhafi Libya

CAIRO (AP) — In denying that Libya's army is trying to overthrow him, Muammar Qadhafi said it would not matter anyway, that even with him gone his system of non-governmental government would prevail.

But on Friday, a member of an exile opposition group that claimed to have arranged an army rebellion this month spoke of post-Qadhafi Libya: Free elections, an open press, guaranteed human rights.

"Qadhafi came to power using force. He did not win legitimate popular support," said Ibrahim Sahad, spokesman for the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL).

"Under his dictatorship, human rights are suffering, the image of Libya in the world is ruined and relations with the Arabs are damaged."

Reports surfaced last week of the rebellion in eastern Libya that Mr. Sahad's organisation claimed to have instigated.

Western diplomats in the Libyan capital Tripoli and opposition leaders abroad said the air force moved Oct. 17-18 against rebellions in Misratah and Bani Walid. Opposition leaders said the uprising was continuing and had spread to Al Zawiyah, 50 kilometres west of Tripoli, and Tarhuna, about 50 kilometres south of the capital.

The NFSL considered the largest Libyan opposition organisation in exile, said the insurance was a coup attempt that it had orchestrated.

Colonel Qadhafi answered the claim for the first time in a nationally televised speech Thursday night. He accused the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), and the British intelligence services of fabricating the stories to demoralise the Libyans.

"We live in front of us a blatant lie," Col. Qadhafi told university students and teachers. "We are the witnesses and we know that nothing has happened, whether in Misratah or anywhere else."

Anyway, he said, "if Muammar Qadhafi dies and a thousand Muammar Qadhafis die, the people's congresses will go on and the people's committees will go on and nobody can change this system."

But in a telephone conversation from Washington, Mr. Sahad said: "We are aiming at setting up an alternative system."

If the front overthrows Col. Qadhafi, he said, it would establish a transitional civilian council to prepare elections for what he called a national founding assembly. It would draft a constitution to be put to a referendum, with parliamentary and presidential elections to follow its enactment, he said.

The front envisions "multi-party rule, freedom of the press and respect for human rights," Mr. Sahad said.

And, he said, "the incident, the coup attempt, happened. We have detailed information about it."

Outside experts on Libya say Col. Qadhafi has ruled virtually alone since taking power in 1969, except for an inner core of aides. He has cracked down hard on opposition and sent agents to liquidate activists in Europe and Egypt during the

1980s.

In the last six years, Col. Qadhafi has somewhat liberalised his country's economy. But it has been undermined for more than 18 months by international sanctions of the U.N. Security Council to punish Libya for refusing to surrender for trial in the United States or Britain two Libyans accused of blowing up a Pan American airliner in December 1988.

Some reports have said economics, not politics, led to the unrest that began Oct. 11, that it grew from the regime's failure to pay soldiers' salaries for up to six months. There also is believed to be discontent in the ranks over shortages caused by the U.N. sanctions.

Experts have said this is Col. Qadhafi's worst problem with the military since a 1986 rebellion. The armed forces are believed the only Libyan power centre capable of dislodging him.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraq says Iran shells border areas

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has accused Iran of shelling Kurdish border areas, killing or wounding scores of civilians including women and children. The ruling Baath Party newspaper, Al Thawra, told Iranian rulers that similar shelling led to the outbreak of the long war between Iran and Iraq in 1980. The official newspaper Al Iraq said Iranian gunners had killed or wounded scores of people, including women and children, in Kurdish towns and villages. "Today they (Iranians) are pushing to cross Iraqi borders and inflict harm on the Iraqi citizen by mounting dangerous military operations, using warplanes and artillery," Al Thawra said. "Iranian rulers must realise that acts like these are dangerous and are no different from those which led to the eight-year war," it said.

### Israel seated in General Assembly without a fight

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Israel's General Assembly credentials were accepted Friday without a major challenge by Arab states, reflecting the good will stemming from the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord. "The approval of Israel's credentials is a sign the U.N. is ready to express the dramatic changes in the Middle East and we are very encouraged," Israeli Ambassador Gad Yaacobi told reporters. "For seven years our credentials were opposed, and now after so many years a dramatic change is taking place," he said. Israel has been a U.N. member since 1949. But for the past seven years, Arab and Muslim states have challenged Israel in the credentials committee of the General Assembly. The United States and its allies each year successfully blocked the efforts to unseat Israel. Friday's decision had been expected after Arab states decided to drop their opposition to Israel's participation in the assembly.

### German envoy says FIS may be right

RABAT (R) — The German ambassador to Morocco said he thought Muslim fundamentalists fighting the Algerian government might have right on their side. Ambassador Manfred Wülfried Hoffmann, himself a Muslim, said in a lecture in Rabat Thursday night that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the main Muslim movement in Algeria, could be the contemporary equivalent of the National Liberation Front (FLN), which fought French colonialism in Algeria from 1954 to 1962. "Terrorism is legitimate in a war of liberation... FLN terrorism was legitimate against French colonialists. So FIS fundamentalist terrorism could be legitimate against FLN leaders who behave like the French did," Mr. Hoffmann said.

### 'Saudi-Thai relations on the mend'

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand's relations with Saudi Arabia, severely strained for several years, are thawing and full diplomatic ties may be restored soon, Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan said Saturday. Mr. Surin, who returned recently from a five-day fact-finding mission to Saudi Arabia, said Saudi officials had expressed to him their satisfaction with Thailand's efforts to resolve a long-running jewellery theft scandal involving Thai police. The theft of the jewellery by a Thai servant who fled back to Bangkok with a sharp deterioration of relations between the two countries since 1989. The servant was arrested and police recovered most of the jewellery but much of what was returned subsequently to the Saudi Arabian owner, a prince, was fake and many pieces are still missing. Eight people, all but one of them policemen, are currently on trial on charges of embezzlement. Saudi Arabia downgraded its mission to Thailand here after four of its embassy officials were murdered in 1989 and 1990. Thailand blamed international terrorism for the killings, an explanation Saudi officials said they accepted. Another incident which strained relations was the disappearance and murder in 1990 of a Saudi businessman.

### Streisand to perform peace concert

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Barbra Streisand has agreed to perform at a concert for peace featuring Israeli, Palestinian and other international artists, a senior Palestinian official told an Israeli daily. Nabil Shaath, a senior adviser to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, said Streisand and other internationally famous artists had agreed to perform in the concert, the Ma'ariv daily said. He said Mr. Arafat himself had signed a deal with a U.S. agent to get the concert going. The management of the La Scala Opera House in Milan had expressed interest in hosting the concert, Dr. Shaath said. The newspaper brought Dr. Shaath together with Ofra Haza, Israel's top recording star, because Dr. Shaath had told reporters he was a great fan of hers. Ma'ariv published the transcript of the meeting between the two, which took place on Monday in Tabat, Egypt, where PLO-Israeli peace talks are taking place. Dr. Shaath asked Ms. Haza to perform at the concert and she readily agreed. "The first time I heard your incredible voice, I asked, who is that?" Dr. Shaath told Ms. Haza, who sings in Arabic as well as Hebrew and who has scored successes among Arabs despite a boycott on Israeli singers.

### Spanish bank in joint Palestine venture

MADRID (R) — Banco Espanol de Credito-Banesto has reached agreement with a group of Mideast-based companies and private investors to create a company based in Gaza and capitalised at \$60 million. A Banesto spokesman said on Friday the bank would put up \$12-\$15 million of the capital and that the company would invest in infrastructure, cement and a distribution network for essential goods in the new Palestinian zone. The other shareholders are Israeli industrial group Koor Industries, Moroccan group Omnium Nord Africain (ONA) and a group of Palestinian investors headed by Javid Gusein. The spokesman said it was also expected that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would take a stake in the company. The plan later on is to list its shares in New York, with the goal of raising \$100 to \$150 million in additional capital. Banesto Chairman Mario Conde will this weekend take part in the Jerusalem business conference. He will also meet Israeli Finance Minister Abraham Shochat and on Monday lunch with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Banesto is Spain's third largest bank and has more than \$50 billion in deposits.

## 'Right of passage' — perennial but varying in Afghanistan

Agence France Presse

**MAZAR-E-SHARIF** — A small teenager with a masked face and a nervous stutter, clutching a Kalashnikov assault rifle more than half his height, suddenly appeared in the middle of the highway linking Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul.

Stopping vehicles approaching from both directions he ordered the drivers to pay what is called in Afghanistan a "right of passage" — an unofficial toll that is actually no more than highway robbery.

The youthful toll gatherer imposed a nominal but fixed amount on vehicles depending on the number of passengers, the amount of cargo transported, and perhaps

most importantly of all — the ethnic group to which the driver belonged.

Pushtuns, whose native tribal lands are far to the south, paid the maximum toll, Tajiks, geographic kinsmen to Uzbeks, half this amount and Uzbeks went free of charge.

The toll-collector needless to say, was an Uzbek.

The drivers obeyed, as usual, without showing any kind of resistance; on the contrary they stretched their hands wide and smiled with helpless resignation.

But this was not to turn out a profitable day for the youth, as from one of the vehicles there emerged a massive Uzbek, huge moustache bristling, who descended on the highwayman and grabbed him by the scruff

of his neck, causing him to drop his rifle.

He then beat the would-be bandit.

Most of those watching were surprised, but one advanced the explanation that the man doing the beating was the youth's commanding officer.

The boy's mistake: "He tried to be a freelance thief. He didn't get the permission of his commanding officer."

While the last act of the roadside fiasco was a little unusual, being held up is not. The overland journey from Mazar-e-Sharif to Kabul takes a minimum 12 hours, depending on the number of hold-ups, but the wise traveller never anticipates, when on this trip there were more than 120 stops, most of

which were between Mazar and the impressive 2.7 kilometre — long Salang Tunnel.

This sector of the northern highway is mostly controlled by troops loyal to the Uzbek ex-communist militia warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam, who now heads a front called the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, or Junbish for short.

In Mazar-e-Sharif banners hung in the street proclaimed Junbish's responsibility to defend Islam, democracy, peace, the honour and dignity of the people and the integrity of Afghanistan.

Travellers could be forgiven for wondering which was harder, upholding the noble aims stated on the banners, or protecting people using the roads.

In one of the worst incidents during the trip an officer at a military checkpoint hit the driver with a rifle, cutting his face and closing one eye.

The officer wanted to siphon some petrol from the car, but the driver protested saying just a day ago he had given the officer's commander 10 litres of fuel, which the commander had asked for to cook a sheep he said he had bought.

Another passenger had to take charge of the car as the driver couldn't see properly, and although the Salang Tunnel is not the normal place to be stopped to pay "taxes", the passenger, fearing this, drove quickly.

This year's winter snow was not expected for a month, but that day the first snow suddenly began falling,

and no one was optimistic that the tunnel would remain open to traffic in winter.

"Every snow-pow and shovel provided to clean this tunnel has been looted, and the staff have fled," observed the driver.

"The main station for ventilating the tunnel is not working because of the oil shortage," he added.

On the last leg of this journey, between Salang and Kabul, the local gunmen were more of an annoyance than a real threat. They did not demand money for fuel, but merely cigarettes, or a ride for a friend or relative.

The best way to hitch-hike in Afghanistan is not to raise the lowly thumb and hope, but to stand next to a man with a Kalashnikov.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:30 Film: "Comme Un Bateau La Mer Un Moins"  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 France Sur  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Bill Cosby Show  
21:10 Thirtysomething  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Before Columbus  
23:10 The Golden Palace

### PRAYER TIMES

04:29 Fajr  
05:47 (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:19 Asr  
14:24 Maghreb  
16:52 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 622666

### Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 620851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 773331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assume International Church Tel. 625226  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 624195  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 634932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675591

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance of scattered showers, and winds will be easterly moderate occasionally becoming southeasterly. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers and winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman 14/23  
Aqaba 21/33  
Deserts 12/27  
Jordan Valley 20/32

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

**AMMAN:**  
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi 794788  
Dr. Khalil Al Jishi 740740  
Dr. Mohamed Omer 622332  
Dr. Mohamed Lubad 623585  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy 778336  
Al Asama pharmacy 627055  
Nadwakh pharmacy 623672  
Al Salan pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shmeitan pharmacy 637660  
Najib pharmacy 847632

### JERUSALEM:

Dr. Ali Al Omari 273032  
Alquda pharmacy (—)

### ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad 985390  
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency 630341  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 630231  
Hotel Complaints 605900  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints Amman Municipality 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 06-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

### HOSPITALS

**AMMAN:**  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816  
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shmeitan 664174  
Shmeitan Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845843  
Al-Muasher Hospital 667279  
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664166  
Julfan, Al-Muasher 777012  
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafiah 771126  
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafiah 891111/15  
Army, Marzi 62240/50  
Queen Alia Hospital 674155  
Amal Hospital 674155

### ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987732  
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)99990

### JERUSALEM:

Palace Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725  
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100

### AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Time	From	Time	From
06:15	Aqaba (RJ)	17:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
06:30	Damascus (RJ)	17:45	London (RJ)
06:45	Jeddah (RJ)	18:00	Rome (RJ)
06:50	Larnaca (RJ)	18:15	Frankfurt, Germany (RJ)
07:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	18:30	Paris (RJ)
07:15	Riyadh (RJ)	18:45	Amsterdam (RJ)
07:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	19:00	Brussels (RJ)
07:45	Bangkok (RJ)	19:15	Istanbul (RJ)
08:00	Singapore (RJ)	19:30	Brussels (RJ)
08:15	Damascus (RJ)	1	

## Hungarian trade exhibition opens

### Visiting officials urge Jordanian businessmen to take initiative in boosting exports to Hungary

A Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Hungarian trade exhibition opens its doors in Amman Sunday, offering a glimpse into what the former East bloc country had to offer for exports.

While the event serves to highlight Jordanian-Hungarian economic and business relations as a concept, it also aims to surface the long-ignored trade balance, which is heavily in favour of Hungary. Senior Hungarian officials organising the exhibition said it was up to Jordanian businessmen to take the initiative in campaigning for the sale of their products in Hungary, which transformed its centrally-planned economy into a private-sector-led capitalist market since 1990.

The exhibition, formally titled "Second Hungarian Business Days," includes a variety of Hungarian products ranging from foodstuffs and garments, tiles, cosmetics, and detergents to steel, wood and rubber products as well as light engineering products.

"Our idea is to present the 'new Hungary to Jordan,'" said János Szentmáry, director-general of the Ministry of International Economic Relations of Hungary, who flew to Amman for the occasion.

Mr. Szentmáry said his country, once part of the Eastern Bloc's Comecon trading group, had undergone dramatic changes since 1990 with sweeping reforms in the political and economic systems.

"Ninety-three per cent of all imports are now liberalised," Mr. Szentmáry told a press gathering Saturday. It means that no import licence is required except for the arms such as garments, textiles and some defence-related products, he explained.

Total Western investment in Hungary totalled \$5.5 billion in the middle of this year, he said, citing it as an example of "investor confidence" that transformed the country has managed to create.

Jordanian-Hungarian trade has always been in the favour of Budapest, with total imports of Jordanian products ex-



Hungarian Commercial Counselor in Amman Tibor Toth (left), Director General of International Economic Relations Bela Szentmáry (centre) and János Menyhárt, Director of International Economic Relations, Saturday held a press conference at the Hungarian embassy in Amman. (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

pected to be less than half a million dollars in 1993 while the Kingdom's imports from Hungary are expected to be around \$17 million.

Mr. Szentmáry and Hungarian Commercial Counselor in Amman Tibor Toth, as well as János Menyhárt, another senior Ministry of International Economic Relations official, emphasised that Jordanian businessmen had to make a serious effort to market their products in Hungary.

Organising Jordanian trade shows and keeping constant contact with Hungarian businessmen are essential to develop trade links, stressed counsellor Toth, who said he was offering information on Hungarian markets to Jordanian businessmen. But that is not enough, the officials stressed.

"Without personal contacts and visits, business is not possible at all," said Mr. Menyhárt, pointing out that Hungarian exporters frequently visited Jordan as well as other countries to familiarise buyers with what they could offer.

In the wake of the political and economic changes in Hungary and the new laws and

regulations that followed, the country is on its way to becoming a "fully functional capitalist" society and gaining eventual membership in the European Community (EC), said Mr. Szentmáry.

As such, he pointed out, the government had little control on imports except the protected seven-per cent category aimed at safeguarding the interests of Hungarian manufacturers.

"In sum, he made it clear that Jordan and its businessmen could not hope to have the Hungarian government taking the lead in importing Jordanian products.

"If the quality and prices are competitive and if Jordanian products are properly promoted, then there could be a good market for Jordan in Hungary," he said.

Mr. Toth said Jordan and Hungary were still bound by a trade agreement dating back to 1976. Under this agreement the two countries offer each other "reciprocal and unconditional most favoured nation status."

Jordan also enjoys an additional, unilateral general system of preferential treatment

under which Jordanian products are subject to reduced customs duties in Hungary, he said.

More than two-thirds of Hungarian exports to Jordan are raw materials and semi-finished products used by Jordanian industries, including pharmaceuticals, Mr. Toth said.

The civil aviation authorities of the two countries are working on an air transport agreement, and flights between Amman and Budapest could start next year, he disclosed.

Mr. Szentmáry said Hungary fully supported the Middle East peace process and was confident that the recent breakthroughs in Arab-Israeli peacemaking would eventually lead to peace, "which will offer many opportunities for business and joint ventures."

The "Second Hungarian Business Days," organised in cooperation with the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, will be open until Nov. 2.

Products on display will not be offered for sale, but company representatives could book orders for dispatch at a later date.

## European authorities to comply with Jordanian food shipment regulations

COPENHAGEN (Petra) —

Concluding a five-day visit to Denmark, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said that the Danish and European Community authorities now accept Jordan's position on measures to be adopted in shipping European cheese and other food products to Jordan.

The Jordanian delegation has presented documents proving that the Kingdom's decision to accept only foodstuffs that have been stored under a maximum temperature of 16°C was justified according to international standards and specifications, said the minister.

In a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Malhas said the cheese that used to be shipped in containers to Jordan was stored at 25°C and thus was unfit for human consumption and rejected by the health authorities in the Kingdom.

During a visit to the Danish ports, the Jordanian team discovered that the containers used to despatch foodstuffs to other European countries and the United States differed from those that have been used to ship cheese and other food products to areas in the Middle East including Jordan, said the minister.

He said containers in which cheese was shipped to the Middle East sometimes rendered the dairy product inedible, added Dr. Malhas.

Jordan demanded that the cheese and other foodstuffs be shipped to Aqaba in proper containers and at temperatures not exceeding 16°C, and the demand has been accepted, said Dr. Malhas.

Delegations from France and Germany, which also ship foodstuffs to the Kingdom, met with the Jordanian delegation in Copenhagen to discuss

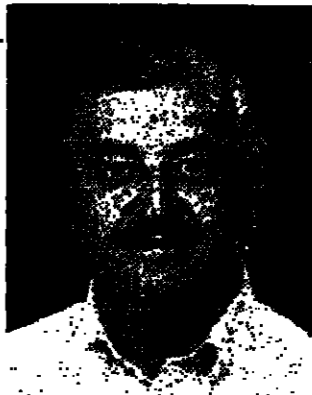
the issue, said the minister, adding that Jordan made it clear that the new shipping requirements would go into effect January 1, 1994.

Dr. Malhas, who described the visit as highly successful, said he proposed to one of the main powdered milk factories to use better quality and smaller bags for packing the milk to protect it from fluctuating temperatures and atmospheric pressures.

The Danish plant has accepted the idea which, the minister said, would mean a reduction in the price of the smaller size packets of powdered milk by at least 30 per cent.

Furthermore, the delegation and the Danish food authorities have agreed on offering Jordanian personnel training in laboratory testing of foodstuffs and also consented to a Jordanian request to set up and supervise similar laboratories in Jordan, according to Dr. Malhas.

The minister was accompanied by two senior officials from the ministry of health.



Abdul Rahim Malhas

Minister request to set up and supervise similar laboratories in Jordan, according to Dr. Malhas.

The minister was accompanied by two senior officials from the ministry of health.

## Public mining company plans new production

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Mining Company (PMC),

whose major shareholder is the government, plans to start new projects to produce industrial sand, plaster and other materials, according to company General Manager Yousef Nimri.

Set up in 1973, the company is involved in mining, processing and marketing of industrial rock minerals, as well as other similar or supplementary activities.

The PMC is one of Jordan's major companies and its shareholders include government-affiliated companies and banks, said Mr. Nimri.

Last year the company paid JD 500,000 in income tax to the treasury, he added.

Without going into details about JPMC's successes in previous years Mr. Nimri said the total sales of the company this year are expected to reach JD 1.8 million, registering a significant increase over previous years.

Referring to the main fields of mining Mr. Nimri said the PMC extracts and markets limestone, dry clay, dolomite, glass granite, and marble, among other materials.

Since its establishment, the PMC has set up quarries and mines for its work in Fuhes, Subeidi, Awasjan, Sahab, Khaledieh, Rasheedieh, and Ain Al Basha.

The company's products are mainly marketed in Jordan and are demanded by factories manufacturing ceramics in Sahab and Awasjan, and white cement in Khaledieh, Mafrq and Ain Al Basha, according to Mr. Nimri.

He said the company also owns three other mines that extract plaster which is sold to the cement factory in Fuhes.

He said that the company was closely cooperating with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) to carry out pilot projects.

## Training hospital to open on JUST campus

AMMAN (Petra) — Work on

the construction of the King Abdullah Training Hospital on the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) campus will start in mid-November and take 44 months to complete, JUST Vice-President Fayez Khasawneh announced here Saturday.

Speaking after the signing of a contract with the Spanish construction firm that won the tender to implement the project, Dr. Khasawneh said that the hospital will train medical students and also serve the citizens of Ramtha and other parts of northern Jordan.

Noting that the hospital will cost about JD 48 million, Dr. Khasawneh said that the agreement stipulates that 25 per cent of the works be executed by Jordanian contractors serving as subcontractors for the Spanish firm.

## China, Jordan to extend environmental protection accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) and the Institution of Science and Technology of China have agreed to extend a bilateral agreement on cooperation in environmental protection, according to a delegation which has just returned from a visit to China.

The delegation toured Chinese facilities and installations designed to protect the environment, said team head Kamel Ajlouni.

Dr. Ajlouni, who is also president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), said that he told his Chinese hosts that JUST was willing to receive and cooperate with Chinese researchers.

During the two-week stay the Jordanian team also visited China's National Environmental Protection Agency NEPA in Beijing and an environmental monitoring centre, where they were briefed on various programmes and functions, according to Ali Abanda, a member of the delegation.

Dr. Abanda, who is director general of the Department of Meteorology, told the Jordan Times that these facilities, of which there are 200 branches or stations around the country, have instruments that measure the degree of pollution affecting water, soil and the atmosphere and can determine the types of pollutants.

In Taijin, a city with a population of 14 million, the

delegation inspected a waste water treatment plant and were briefed on the process of analysing underground water resources, said Dr. Abanda.

He said agreement has been reached on intensifying mutual cooperation between Jordan and China in cloud seeding and precipitation enhancement in order to increase rainfall.

He added that Jordan has gained some experience and modern technology in this field, and a Chinese team will be arriving here later to discuss ways of benefiting from the techniques to induce rain.

Jordanian team also included Talal Akasheh, head of the Environment Division at the HCST, and Mohammad Hanbali from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

## Ministry to install 300 computers in government's 10th grade classrooms

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has recently endorsed a plan to install 300 computers in the 10th grade classrooms of government schools, and the project will include more schools in 1995 under the school curriculum, said ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri Saturday.

Addressing the opening session of a training workshop for teachers in technical education, Dr. Masri said that the introduction of computers falls under the third education-

al development scheme carried out by the ministry as part of the educational system overhaul.

If teacher training is to be successful, modern technological aids have to be used on the widest possible scale, said Dr. Masri.

He said that to promote the sciences curricula the ministry has set up centres to manufacture laboratory equipment at cost price, employing locally produced materials as well as special programmes for technical education.

Organised in cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO), the workshop is attended by 34 participants specialising in technical education and school supervision and inspection from 15 Arab countries including Jordan.

The organisers said that the workshop entails lectures, practical applications for producing materials for teaching and discussion of several Arab countries related experiments.

## Bank chief tells why village councils are in serious debt

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Municipal and village councils throughout Jordan are in very difficult financial situations because of meagre revenues and poor financial management, according to Zuhair Khalifeh, director general of the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB).

The bank, a government institution established in 1985, has provided the councils with a total of JD 120 million in loans since its founding. Mr. Khalifeh told the Jordan Times that of that total, the councils still owe the CVDB JD 47 million. He added that so far this year, the councils have obtained a total of JD 7 million in new loans from the bank.

One of the reasons for the excessive indebtedness of the municipal and village councils, according to Mr. Khalifeh, is that the existing Municipalities Law only provides them with overly restricted opportunities to raise revenues for themselves through local taxes and other avenues.

But he said that although "it is fair to say that the 1955 Municipal Law should be changed to allow more money to come to the councils... it is also fair to say that they need to have better management."

Mr. Khalifeh stressed that poor financial management by the councils was the major cause of their long lists of debts, more so than the restrictiveness of the present Municipalities Law.

He said that the councils spend too much money on administrative matters and, as well, are too ambitious in planning the municipal projects

which they want to initiate.

"They want everything all at once," he said. "They feel that they must show achievements to their voters before the next elections four years later, and therefore they want funding from us for the maximum amount of projects they can get."

Mr. Khalifeh said that municipal and village councils are over-relying on the bank for funds, to the point that they often come to the bank asking to be pardoned from paying any interest on previous loans and at the same time asking the bank for additional loans.

"Our funds are limited," he commented. "We cannot be the solution for all of the problems."

Another management problem common among the municipal and village councils, he said, was that they are reluctant to press their constituencies for the full amount of taxes and duties due to them by law. This, he said, stems largely from the councils' fear of angering those who have elected them to office.

"The amounts that are missing from their funds because of this are not small, and could alleviate a lot of problems," he added.

One municipal council that does not have any outstanding debts to the bank, Mr. Khalifeh said, is the one for Zarqa, "because they get their money from their citizens and debtors. It has been some time since they last came to borrow from us," said Mr. Khalifeh.

He emphasised that the problem of the accumulating debts of the municipal and village councils was solvable, and he had several suggestions

for its cure.

First, he recommended a change in the Municipalities Law to allow the councils to raise more funds.

Next, Mr. Khalifeh suggested that the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs needed to be stricter about the amount of the deficits allowed in the councils' budgets. "The ministry should be very rigid and very specific on this point," he said.

In addition, he believed that after any council is elected to office, it should be required "to formulate an acceptable plan that can be executed through the four-year term of the council using its own revenues and loans from the bank," which would have to be approved by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

The plan would be comprehensive and cover all of the council's projects during its full term in office until the next municipal elections.

Mr. Khalifeh said that no matter what was done, he did not expect an overnight change to councils with low or zero-deficit budgets, but he felt such a situation was conceivable to achieve if it were implemented as a four or five-year goal.

Lastly, although he was not sure that the suggestion was popular, he believed that the councils would be better off if, instead of having a popularly elected president, there was a technically trained and government-appointed town manager for each council, "to assure continuity, control and follow-up of all projects" chosen by the council, and to give each municipal and village government a measure of impartiality from local politics and pressures.

## A new medical school — what are the needs?

By Kathrine Rath

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new medical school is planned in Jordan, a proposal which is seen by the educators as providing a wider choice for students aspiring to study medicine but others call for a study to be conducted to find out what are the specific needs of the Kingdom in this field.

The Applied Science University (ASU), which opened its doors for students two years ago, is planning to establish a medical college in accordance with its 10-year plan approved by the Supreme Council for Higher Education.

It will be the first private medical school in Jordan. There are two medical schools in the Kingdom today, both are state-owned. The Medical Faculty at the University of Jordan, recently celebrated its 21st anniversary. The other, at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), was established in 1983.

According to ASU founder and chairman of the board of directors Seif Ramahi, the proposed medical school intends to adopt an Anglo-American teaching model. For example, the entry requirements will correspond to British and U.S. standards as well as those set by the Supreme Council for Higher Education. Although the college is still in its early phase of planning, contacts have already been made with several renowned universities and medical institutions in the United States and the United Kingdom. Dr. Ramahi said in an interview with the Jordan Times. The aim is to establish a medical school at the ASU

medical school which will conform to standards in leading Western medical teaching institutions. This is meant to facilitate future international exchanges of medical students and create better opportunities for the students to specialise after finishing their basic degree.

The construction of a teaching hospital is planned on the ASU campus in Shafa Badran, and when completed, the hospital will contain sections for all the medical specialties that will be taught at the medical school, as well as an out-patient clinic, Dr. Ramahi said.

In line with the general policy of the ASU, which puts the main emphasis on qualifications, the teaching staff at the medical school will be recruited from among Jordanians first, according to Dr. Ramahi. If qualified Jordanians are unavailable, other Arab applicants will be given priority over non-Arabs, explained Dr. Ramahi, who is also a professor of diplomacy at the ASU.

As the ASU attaches great importance to keeping up-to-date with developments in the various scientific fields, it offers, Dr. Ramahi said, an exchange programme with foreign medical teaching institutions is envisaged for the medical school. Prominent professors and doctors will be invited to visit the ASU and give lectures to the medical students as well as to students in the para-medical sciences taught at the ASU, he added.

The ASU, which was the first private university to be approved by the Supreme Council for Higher Education, was originally established as a university for children of

Jordanians working abroad. According to Dr. Ramahi, only five to seven per cent of the seats at the public universities is reserved for children of expatriates, which makes it more difficult for these children to be accepted at the university than those passing their tawjihi in Jordan.

Expatriate workers often send their children to study at universities outside the Arab World. With an emphasis on quality of education and with fees which are "much lower" than those of Western universities, the aim of the ASU, according to the founder, was to attract these students and educate them in Jordan. This is also the philosophy behind the project for the medical school. More than 65 per cent of the students currently enrolled at the ASU, are children of Jordanians working in the Gulf, Dr. Ramahi said.

According to the dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan, Ala Uddin Toukan, the number of students going abroad to study medicine has drastically decreased in recent years. This, he said, can be attributed to the weakening of the dinar followed by a reduction in the number of scholarships given by the government, as well as to political developments in Eastern Europe, which hosted a significant number of Jordanian students during the communist era.

Jordan now graduates approximately 160 doctors per year — about 100 from the University of Jordan and around 60 from JUST.

Since 1987, the pressure has increased on the faculty of medicine to accept a larger number of students, Dr. Toukan said.

The number of medical students enrolled at the University of Jordan exceeds the teaching capacity and the facilities available at the faculty of medicine, which started out with 40 students per year, increasing to a comfortably manageable 60 in the late 70s and early 80s, according to Dr. Toukan. But the capacity has not been improved with the increase in the number of students, he maintained.

It would appear then that the ASU medical school could be able to take some of the pressure off the public universities when it opens in the future.

But Dr. Toukan expressed certain reservations concerning the establishment of a new medical school in Jordan. He questioned the need for graduating more doctors and indicated that even the current number of graduates might be too high.

He called for better planning in this area and an initiative to study the needs of the country for medical doctors. Apparently, no such study has ever been conducted in Jordan.

The study should not only concentrate on the total number of doctors required, Dr. Toukan said, but should also look at the geographical distribution of doctors as well as the types of specialists needed in the Kingdom.

Dr. Toukan pointed to the high costs of training doctors and said that several medical school graduates were unemployed.

He hinted, though, that unemployment in the sector was created by societal emphasis that places pressure on high school graduates to pursue studies in this "prestigious" field.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Beni Hamida fall exhibition: "Autumn Leaves" at the Jordan Contractors Association Building (near the American Embassy in Abdoun) 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

★ Exhibition of ceramics and coloured glass by artists Khalid Mahafah and Basel Tarawneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Jerash gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Issawi at the Gallery Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m.-7 p.m. daily except Friday).

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mukhlis Al Mukhlis

entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Casa Exhibition Hall (5th Circle).

### FILMS

★ Film entitled "The King and I" at the American Center at 6:00 p.m.

### LECTURES

★ Lecture in Arabic by Mr. Faisal Al Hourani entitled "Authority and Opposition in the Palestinian Arena" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

## Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:  
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEN

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.  
Telephones: 6571716, 670141-4  
Telex: 21457 ALRAJ JO  
Facsimile: 661242

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### The imperative for coordination

THE SYRIAN ambassador in Amman did well yesterday to explain that a statement his foreign minister made last week did not include any warning to Jordan over making separate peace with Israel.

The French news agency AFP quoted Minister Fouad Al Farraj Sharaa as telling Al Jazeera newspaper in an interview that he believes it was "not in Jordan's interests to take a separate road because this will complicate the situation in Jordan and will not lead to stability." The outgoing ambassador, Majid Abu Jada, apparently on instructions from Mr. Sharaa himself, said in his statement that the minister did not use the word "warning" in his interview and that Mr. Sharaa was expressing concern that Israel wanted to push for separate peace deals with Arab parties to the conflict.

While Syria is right to be concerned about the policy of dividing the Arab stand in the Gulf crisis, it should have no worries about Jordan's policy and position vis-a-vis the peace process. Jordan has repeatedly asserted its commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It has demonstrated this commitment when it signed the signing of its agenda with Israel and when progress was made on the Palestinian track.

It is in which progress was made on the Arab-Israeli track, however, has dealt a blow to Arab coordination, forcing Syria, Iraq and Lebanon to guard more closely their national interests.

The focus on national interests of the Arab states involved in the peace process would weaken the level of coordination among them. In fact the interconnectedness of the political and economic interests of these countries makes closer cooperation and coordination an imperative that cannot be overlooked.

Especially in the light of the division that has occurred in the Arab World as a whole since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in 1990 and the erosion of the traditionally pro-Arab Eastern bloc.

The Arab World cannot afford more division. It needs to regain at least part of its rights and freedom. Any more inter-Arab disputes will only serve the hands of Israel, which continues to be the support of the United States, the only superpower in the world.

Jordan, through word and action, has demonstrated its understanding of these facts and has worked to maintain the utmost level of coordination among Arab parties to the peace process. Its endeavours to bring about reconciliation among Arab states that were divided by the Gulf war is another testimony to Jordan's understanding of the need for a united Arab World. That Syria knows and should give it enough assurances that it will not go it alone in its talks with Israel.

### THE PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ARABIC daily Saturday hailed a ruling by the Higher Court of Justice to allow public rallies by candidates running in the Nov. 8 elections as an indicator of the true democracy enjoyed by Jordan. This court ruling also reflects the integrity and the fairness of the judicial authority in the country and its openness to ensuring fair and free elections, added the daily. There is no doubt that the Ministry of Interior, which had applied the regulations valid before the court ruling, would welcome such a development because it too is keen on ensuring fair and free elections and it can by no means ban public rallies on its own, said the daily. The court ruling will no doubt enhance the security and stability Jordan and the Jordanian people enjoy as the public witnesses the judiciary maintaining control over the actions of the other branches of government to ensure justice and democracy, continued the paper. There is no doubt that the court ruling, said the paper, will give further confidence in the march towards democracy in Jordan. It should remain free of any external influences. The paper also voiced appreciation of the Interior Ministry's response to the court decision and on all those who continue to seek justice and to enhance the march of democracy in the Kingdom.

THE U.N. IN AL RA'I daily said Iraq has implemented the U.N. resolutions issued by the Security Council following its invasion of Kuwait, but so far nothing has been done to lift the embargo on its people. Suleiman Wishah said the implementation of the U.N. resolutions was ensured through the prolonged presence of the western naval forces in the neighbouring countries' close adherence to the resolutions. He said the implementation of resolutions, the paper said, has failed to date to take any decision concerning the termination of the economic sanctions on Iraq.

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

## The risks the infant Palestinian economy runs

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

The gross domestic product (GDP) in Palestine, i.e., the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is roughly \$3 billion, while the gross national product (GNP) may reach around \$4 billion. The exceptionally wide difference between the two figures is a result of the substantial remittances received from expatriates in the Gulf states and labourers working in Israel.

The heart of a Palestinian infant economy is supposed to start beating as of 1994. However, grave risks are abundant and should be taken into account from now. Some of those risks can be minimised if precautionary measures are taken, but others cannot be brought under control.

The first risk that comes to mind is that the Palestinian economy may indulge in borrowing and suddenly find itself overburdened by foreign debt. Some countries, such as Japan, do not normally give grants, they only provide long-term soft loans. Like all banks, the World Bank is not in the business of giving away money. All its aid comes in the form of conditional loans with commercial interest. The softness of the loan is confined to the long duration of maturity, another temptation to overborrow.

The second risk is inflation. When an economy receives a substantial flow of external funds, it is only natural to experience inflation. Some international economists, like Stanley Fisher, estimated that the Palestinian economy is able to absorb no more than \$400 million of capital formation a year. Amounts in excess of this limit will be inflationary.

The third risk is too much dependency on the Israeli economy. The agreement principles are extremely ambiguous when it comes to politics, but very precise and detailed when it comes to economics. The agreement and its annexes specifically put the Palestinian economy under Israeli hegemony. Israel could use the Palestinian economy as a bridge to enter the

Arab World. This will harm the Jordanian economy and may influence negatively the Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations.

The fourth risk is the excessive dependency on foreign subsidies to finance investments and public expenditure of the Palestinian budget. This will not lead to an independent state and self-sufficient economy.

The Jordanian experience of depending heavily on foreign aid to cover its budget deficit is a case in point. Jordan received regular foreign grants from Britain until 1956, from the U.S. until 1967, from the Arab oil-exporting countries until 1990, and from various international sources since then.

The financial dependency in the case of Palestine is expected to be much higher than was the case in Jordan. Such a state of affairs will inevitably create big government and inflated public sector, which will become such a huge burden in the future that the Palestinian economy will not be able to sustain itself once foreign aid dries out with time.

The fifth risk is the likely submission to Israeli pressure to make Palestine a free zone, like Hong Kong, which will be a death sentence for any potential domestic industry. The agreement should be modified to allow the autonomous government to charge reasonable customs tax on imports from all sources, first to generate local revenue and second to extend some protection to domestic infant industries. Such a step will not harm Jordan's ability to export to Palestine, provided of course that Israeli products exported to the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be subjected to the same charges, which will not affect the competitive advantage of any party.

Unfortunately, it seems that the best deal that Jordan can get in Palestine is equal access and treatment to Israel's.

## Obstacles to economic reform in the Middle East

By Andrew Cunningham

After decades dominated by state planning, Middle East governments are now embracing economic reform and liberalisation. Nearly every government in the region publicly proclaims its commitment to expanding the role of the private sector, privatising state-owned companies and eliminating distortions in monetary policy such as subsidised exchange rates and artificially low interest rates.

Encouragement of the private sector cuts across political and ideological lines: Egypt is privatising state-run companies. Morocco and Syria are encouraging private investment. The Gulf states are looking to the private sector to fund new power stations. Even Iran is tentatively encouraging outside investment and is trying to remove monetary distortions from its economy, such as unrealistic exchange rates and foreign currency controls.

### The impetus for change

The impetus for such a change has been economic, not ideological, and is rooted in the inability of state planning to maintain economic growth. In the years immediately after independence, central planning was seen as essential if an industrial base was to be built quickly and scarce resources used effectively. Countries such as Egypt and Algeria achieved prodigious rates of growth in this way. However, by the 1970s state industries had become inefficient as a result of overemployment, subsidised raw materials and guaranteed markets. The sector had become a drain on the economy, rather than a stimulus, and was unable to generate investment capital for future growth.

The response has been to reduce the drain on the exchequer by disposing of loss-making state companies and using private capital to fund new projects. But to attract private capital a country needs to create the right financial environment, so exchange controls are removed, exchange rates set at realistic levels and inflation reduced.

In the Gulf, lower real oil prices since the mid-1980s have curtailed the governments' ability to fund new projects. Private wealth, however, remains enormous. As a result, Gulf governments are now encouraging the private sector to invest in major infrastructural projects. Both Qatar and Bahrain are hoping that private money will fund the expansion of power and water capacity. In Saudi Arabia, private commercial banks have taken over from the state-owned Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF) as the main financiers of petrochemical expansion projects.

In its move to free-market economic policies, the Middle East is wholly in tune with the international policy trends. Following the collapse of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, economic liberalisation has been unchallenged as the new economic orthodoxy. It is reinforced by international agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) who lend their resources to countries which will dismantle the legacies of state control.

Needless to say, their resources are denied to those who will not.

Yet despite East governments' public commitment to reform, progress has been faltering and half-hearted. The contrast with Eastern Europe is stark. There foreign expertise has been eagerly sought and radical solutions accepted. In Poland, the grossly subsidised exchange rate was swept away overnight. In the former East Germany inefficient factories have been closed and in Russia shares in state-owned companies have been distributed free to the population through a voucher system. The contrast seems all the greater when one considers that in some Middle Eastern countries economic reform has been official policy since the mid-1970s, most notably in Egypt with President Sadat's much-vaulted policy of *infitah*, but also in Tunisia and Algeria.

### Bureaucracies at the helm

The main reasons for delay in the Middle East lie in politics rather than in economics. In the former Soviet bloc the collapse of communism removed many of the old political actors from the scene and those who have survived are forced to distance themselves from the failed policies of the past. State-led growth is inextricably linked to the former political system, now overthrown and discredited. But in the Middle East, economic restructuring is nearly always being implemented by regimes which are not only associated with the previous policies of state-led growth, but which are also determined to maintain their positions of power under the proposed new economic system.

**"The desire of incumbent politicians to delay economic reform or restrict its scope is aided by the fact that economic conditions in the region are not so bad that radical change is seen as the only way out."**

In Egypt, the privatisation process is at the mercy of bureaucrats who grew up in the heyday of the command economy. Three hundred and thirteen state-owned companies, which account for 70 per cent of industrial production, have been put under the control of 17 "holding companies" which are supposed either to prepare them for privatisation, or decide on how they should be restructured so as to operate efficiently and profitably. But half of the board members of the holding companies are drawn from the ranks of public sector bureaucrats and industrialists — the very people who have been administering the failed economic system which they are now charged with correcting.

Algeria's last prime minister, Belaid Abdessalam, removed from office on Aug. 21, was a key figure in Algeria's

heavy industrialisation programme of the early 1970s which was instrumental in giving Algeria one of the highest growth rates in the world. Indeed, at the time his policies were seen as a model for developing countries. Not surprisingly, he has many reveries with the market-oriented policies of his cosmopolitan predecessor, Sid Ahmad Ghozali, and since becoming prime minister last year he slowed the pace of economic reform.

In Iran, President Rafsanjani is personally committed to more liberal economic system, but is trying to avoid a backlash from his more hardline colleagues which would threaten his own position and those of his supporters. Syria too provides an example of how entrenched political systems stand in the way of economic reform. Millions of dollars of private capital are returning to Syria following the introduction of a new investment law. But it is clear that this enthusiasm for private enterprise is not a prelude to a more open economic system, in which economic power and decision-making are more widely diffused. Syria's economy has been in dire straits and the government needs to tap into private money as a way of keeping it afloat.

The same is true in the Gulf states, where governments have no intention of ceding control of the crude oil industry. They want private capital to play a supplementary role, providing new capital to existing businesses, funding the expansion of utilities and establishing factories (which will play the important role of creating new jobs). The oil industry, which underpins the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, will remain in the hands of the state. In the Gulf, the encouragement of the private sector can be seen as a political safety valve, deflecting appeals for greater participation in a country's affairs into economic activities and away from politics.

**"For many reasons, Middle East governments will continue to approach the subject of economic reform selectively and with caution. For all the public enthusiasm for change, the status quo still has many supporters."**

Surviving economies  
The desire of incumbent politicians to delay economic reform or restrict its scope is aided by the fact that economic conditions in the region are not so bad that radical change is seen as the only way out.

Egyptians appreciate the problems associated with over-stuffed public enterprises and costly food subsidies, but they know that their economy is not facing imminent collapse. They would therefore prefer to prolong the flawed system they have come to rely on rather than take a leap into the unknown in the hope of building a more solid long-term economy. An immediate fall in living standards in return for a promise of better times to come is not an attractive proposition to someone who can only make ends meet by doing two jobs and living in an overcrowded apartment.

Again, the contrast with Eastern Europe is instructive. When the communist states collapsed, their bankruptcy was plain to see. A new economic model had to be found. No Middle Eastern state has been forced to confront economic failure in the same way. The closest which any has come, in recent years, to the Eastern European experience was

## America steps back and a demon peeps out

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — Much of Congress and the American public are treating President Bill Clinton's new wariness about military engagement in remote hot spots as a victory of prudence over innocence: no quagmires, no more Vietnams. But it is early to take relief and nowhere more so than in respect to the president's urgent purpose of keeping weapons of mass destruction out of the wrong hands. Here the move towards disengagement has ominous implications.

Governments are constantly calculating what they need to satisfy their security needs and their political goals. This is so both for those who view the United States as a friend and those who see it as a foe. Friends wonder if it is wise to count on America in a crisis; when they see signs of slippage and retrenchment in Washington, they can fairly conclude that they must make plans to care for themselves. Those who see the United States as a foe wonder what they can get away with. Either way, for the increasing number of countries with access to the means, the road of American retrenchment leads towards nuclear proliferation.

In cold war times, the superpowers practiced "extended deterrence." They did not just act to deter attack against themselves. By written treaty or by political nod they extended their nuclear umbrellas over a far-flung array of countries locked into their respective alliance systems. It was costly and dangerous — remember the 1962 Cuban missile crisis and the 1973 Middle East war. But it deterred nuclear war and pretty much kept the demons of proliferation caged.

Now there is no Soviet Union. Nor is Russia in a position to open a like nuclear umbrella. The United States does still have a nuclear umbrella. But it no longer has the sense of a high-stakes strategic competition to invigorate its nuclear pledges. And it has a public demonstrably reluctant to back those pledges up. Or so one can conclude after viewing the recent hesitations of American policy in Somalia, Bosnia and Haiti.

Would a country that reversed course after suffering one day's casualties in Mogadishu be likely to stand up to, say, a nuclear-armed North Korea, Iraq or Iran threatening its American-allied neighbours? It is more than a little subversive just to pose the question. But it is obvious that the old assumptions about deterrence no longer have the same hold.

Nor do new doubts multiply only in respect to the familiar rogue regimes. With friends, too, problems stir. Is it con-

ceivable that the United States would extend, and that Israel would accept, a U.S. nuclear "guarantee" as a substitute for Israel's own bomb? The same question can be asked in respect to America and nuclear-ready Pakistan and India.

One more: Are Americans ready to accept Ukraine's challenge to offer it nuclear security guarantees — against the Russians, now America's friends — in place of the comforts Ukraine now seeks from retention of Soviet-era nuclear arms?

Plainly, in all these cases, the answer is no.

Then there is the whole parallel question of whether the United States has the political concentration to restrain the friendly as well as the unfriendly suppliers (China, Russia, Israel, Europe) of especially dangerous or on-the-edge weapons and of the wherewithal to build them.

**"Is it conceivable that the U.S. would extend, and that Israel would accept, a U.S. nuclear 'guarantee' as a substitute for Israel's own bomb?"**

Some argue — in putting the case against adding new members to NATO, for instance — that the United States is better off not increasing its obligations to countries pregnant with ethnic or territorial risk. But this is a situation where a reasonable and attractive-sounding proposition takes us seamlessly — unless we are careful — to an attitude that distances the United States from a steady international role and enlarges the instability that wise policy is meant to reduce.

On the "big issues" like proliferation, President Clinton told Ann Devroy and R. Jeffrey Smith of The Washington Post, "we have a strategy."

The administration has conscientious intentions and country-tailored programmes. But a "strategy"? That requires bringing the public into an explicit understanding of the burdens and trade-offs of an effective anti-proliferation policy.

To lighten the American load in one or another zone of current crisis has an evident political appeal. But if the result is to signal friends and troublemakers alike that the United States is letting go, then compensatory steps have to be sought to prevent real damage to the national interest — The Washington Post.

### LETTERS

#### Poor race for coverage

To the Editor:

The reason I am writing this letter is to share some of my feelings with the staff of the Jordan Times.

As an expatriate, I have lived in many countries around the world. My experience exposed me to different cultures and various newspapers, as a result.

Like anybody else, the reason for reading the newspaper is to keep myself educated and to keep up with the latest happenings around the world, whether political, social, cultural or sports.

I must give the Jordan Times credit for covering the world's top news in a professional manner, but I also have to say that when it comes to sports, your coverage is rather poor. This is a fair statement considering the fact that your sports crew either ignores the latest and most important results for expatriates like me, or they do not have the professional facilities whatsoever.

OK, so you cover chess and tennis, regional football and gymnastics. But don't you think that for Jordanians, Arabs and most of the world population, soccer is the most popular topic?

Whatever happened to weekly results of the English, German, Spanish, Italian, French and other respectable football leagues? What about the American Football League?

As an expatriate, I like to sit down one morning and pretend that it is Monday morning, when it is time to check the newspaper on daily basis since April this year and, to my great disappointment, you have the worst coverage of such activities among the countries I have already visited.

My suggestion is to concentrate more on what is really important nowadays. Football is more important than chess and horse or car racing this time of the year.

Al Chazarian,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Handwritten signature: *Al Chazarian*

## There is a genuine desire for peace

Muriel Mirak-Weissbach interviewed Sen. Kamel Al Sharif of Jordan, at the Milan conference on religious dialogue. Senator Al Sharif has previously held ministerial and ambassadorial posts in the Jordanian government. He is currently the editor of Al Dustour and secretary general of the International Islamic Council for Daw'a and Relief. He was the special envoy of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The interview is reprinted from the Washington-based Executive Intelligence Review (EIR).

**EIR:** How do you view the dramatic developments in the PLO-Israel accord?

**Al Sharif:** We are witnessing a worldwide trend towards peaceful solution of all these standing problems and a genuine desire to build a new world on the basis of justice. This is a general trend. We are living in a small world, which is too much interlinked now, and any event which takes place in one part of the world affects the others; we are interdependent. So what happened in the Soviet Union and other parts of the world dramatically affects the situation everywhere, especially in the Middle East, because the international political situation and the equation of the balance of power has been dramatically disrupted. All these elements combined have led to the same trend in the Middle East. And then all the parties perhaps agree that things cannot go on forever in this manner and that insistence on power and occupation, denial of the others' right is not the solution: It would generate clashes over a period of time.

So everybody realizes that the peaceful solution is inevitable if we want to avoid destructive conflicts. There are other elements which came into play, like the disposition of the Americans to solve these problems one by one and to show that their leadership in the world is beneficial to every party. All these elements combined have led to this development.

Of course, it's early to say whether things will succeed in the end, because there are still many obstacles. The real intentions are not yet known. There is also a big margin for manoeuvres — for all parties. But we are optimistic, we think that our hope is based on the realities of the situation, the reality that nobody can dominate the other, nobody is immune to internal problems; the discovery that people can find solutions whereby they can live and cooperate. Our hopes are not imaginary or fantastic, but I think, based on reality. But sometimes it is difficult to predict how the human mind functions, and there is always the possibility of unpleasant surprises; and we are waiting, waiting to see.

**Q:** One of the most important things will be to see whether the economic projects agreed upon will be implemented quickly, giving people on both sides reason to believe that the agreement will work.

**A:** We can't, at this stage, expect huge, massive projects to link the different parties before a final political settlement; you can't really have a genuine, final economic settlement without a political arrangement in the area. But keeping in mind that the recent accord is limited to certain areas and that the whole arrangement is provisional, some political arrangement could be arranged within these areas. If the Palestinians manage to solve the problems of Gaza and the enclave of Jericho in a proper manner, (and have) something they can show to the people and from there influence the economic situation of the people inside the occupied territories, who are the majority, from that base they can influence the events inside; this will be a great encouragement, no doubt about it.

But for big projects, which link, for example, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian state regionally, it's early to think of that, before the remaining issues which are vital to the solution — what is that fate of the occupied territories, what is the fate of Jerusalem, touchy sensitive issues — these are questions which have to be settled, so that we can stand on solid ground with more hope, more confidence.

**Q:** In Jordan initially there was hesitation in welcoming the accord.

**A:** Jordan — I am not in the government at present — Jor-

dan was surprised, like many parties. It was something which came against the established current of bilateral and multilateral negotiations. We were not aware of the secret negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis. But after the shock, the government said that if the Palestinians agreed, they are free to choose their way; the government gave its support. Of course, the attitude of the people is different from the government, because the government has its measures and criteria, its relations with the rest of the Arab World, international relations, coordination with the Palestinians, and it stems from basic premises which had been recognised before, that the Palestinians are free to choose their destiny and to solve their problems the way they like. The people are different. They have their own emotional and ideological outlook.

**Q:** In reference to the conference here, what do you think the role of Judaism, the Church and Islam can be in truly forging a peace?

**A:** Doubtless, the religions have a vital role to play in the confidence-building process — in the whole world, not just in the Middle East. As it was stated in the U.N. Charter, war and peace are on the minds of people; this is a zone where religion can influence.... If we accept the idea that the religion has a role to play, Islam can contribute to this process, because it is a religion which recognises other religions, respects their scriptures, and calls for friendship with them, which means contact based on dialogue and persuasion.

And, of course, the religious establishment everywhere has a moral strength and spiritual power which could be applied and could influence events and the policy-making process. Now, we have to pass this stage of just meeting and talking and discovering each other, to more tangible and bolder steps. This is why I called, in one of my speeches, for the establishment of a religious committee, a fact-finding committee, which can reconcile and mediate in various issues and give an opinion (from the standpoint of religion) in some of these things. I think we have reached this stage, that something should be done. We mean really to talk with the policy-makers and statesmen and influence their decisions.

Now, to come to the Middle East. I believe it's still early to talk of the role of religion in the process, because, as we see it now, it's easier to talk with the Christians, because we don't have an outstanding problem which separates us. This is not the case with Judaism; we still have an occupied territory, we still have an oppressed people, we still have occupied Jerusalem. Of course, the stand of Islam towards Judaism is no different than its stand towards Christianity. The relationship is based on respect for Judaism. We have maintained good relations with the Jews throughout history, so it's a political issue.

Unfortunately, the political movement within Judaism has overtaken the spiritual side — Zionism — so, we don't find a trend which is neutral, which you can talk to. Religion has been exploited in this Zionist movement, that has been justified by religious connotation, making it somehow difficult to start a dialogue. But again, we don't lose hope. If the outstanding political issue is solved, or it becomes clear that it is on the way to resolution, then the dialogue, even of the religious establishment, could not be far away, could not be excluded.

**Q:** How do you evaluate the impact of these developments on the democratisation process within Jordan?

**A:** I think it will strengthen the process. Jordan has adopted the democratic system. It has embarked on it genuinely in the last few years. Through its practice, it has proved to be beneficial. It has contributed to dissipating many negative aspects of public life. We're facing the future with more confidence, and we believe that democracy is the only solution to our problems. The people are convinced; we have political parties which are convinced; everybody knows where he stands and everybody has expressed his loyalty to the Constitution and to the monarchy; so I think we are sailing with a fair wind, and the future is very promising indeed. Inshallah (God willing).

## Coffee in governors' offices, pardons and murder threats, women vying for seats and men vying for their attention

The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. There are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way libel.

**THE BALQA** District has a few stories of its own that can prove interesting. A village in the Ghor area, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Balqa District, has 1,100 votes. But it also has a personal problem: Three of its residents, prison denizens, were the catch prize. So the village elders made it known that they would give their votes to the candidate who could find a way to help these

three people come back to their families. Since they had been imprisoned for petty crimes, one of the candidates helped them out and found himself 1,100 votes richer. If he finds a few more prisoners to release in the next ten days or so, he might even win.

**A COFFEE** boy working for a governor in one of the districts close to Amman, confronted his boss one day with a request to accept his resignation because he wanted to run for elections. The governor tried to dissuade the coffee boy by impressing on him that he had no chance of winning and that his money would be better spent on his family and children. But after failing to convince him, he accepted his resignation still retaining some hope that the man would change his mind.

On the day of registration for candidates, the coffee boy showed up at the governor's office to hand in his registration papers. Again the governor tried to convince the man that he would be better off coming back to his work and forgetting the whole affair had ever happened. The coffee boy, however, was looking at the whole affair in a totally different way: "It is better to be a defeated deputy than a governor."

**IN ONE** of Amman's more tribalistic districts, two candidates from equally important, but apparently not very friendly, tribes are vying for a seat in Parliament. Both have spent money and time recruiting voters, advertising and hanging banners. But, according to district insiders,

neither is really working to win. For as the story goes, one of them had sworn publicly that he did not care if he lost as long as the other candidate met the same fate. "And if he wins, I will kill him." The police, according to sources, are already guarding against the outcome of the elections in that particular district.

**THE WOMEN** in the Kingdom may yet see a winner of their gender in the 12th Parliament. As the Nov. 8 deadline nears, many Third District observers are beginning to believe that Janet Mufli, who is vying for that district's Circassian seat, may just make it. The toughest competition may actually come from Toujan Faisal, also a Circassian woman candidate who failed to muster enough

## Elections '93

support in the Fifth District of Amman in 1989 and is now trying her chances in the Third District. And as if to stress the need to bring a woman into Parliament, a candidate running for the Christian seat in the same district has hung a banner asking voters to cast their votes in his favour "to lead a woman into the Parliament." A voter who saw his banner commented that he was going to listen to his advice "and vote for one of the two women running for the Circassian seat."

**AN IRRED** Christian candidate, Nader Abul Shaer, has had one of his women relatives appeal to women in a newspaper's ad this week.

Even though this candidate has a favoured standing, critics of this ad, which was signed by Iqbal Abul Shaer, do not think that his voters are exactly feminists. "To my educator sisters," it began, "I am a retired teacher appealing to your mind, your love-filled heart, your conscience to give your vote to the one who deserves it," the ad said. "Dr. Nader Abul Shaer has often reduced the pains of your sick and dried the tears of your children and was always the kind father, the good friend and the faithful son." Women must not care about political issues in Irbid or Mrs. Iqbal Abul Shaer would have mentioned them.

**NERMEEN MURAD**

## Germany rescues ambitious recycling scheme from scrapheap

By Nao Nakanishi  
Reuters

**BONN** — Germany is stepping up its ambitious packaging recycling system in spite of financial problems and difficulties in reprocessing some forms of waste.

The scheme, which last month narrowly escaped bankruptcy, is the first of many the government hopes to introduce.

Environment Minister Klaus Toepfer and German industry have agreed on measures to rescue the private packaging recycling system Duales System Deutschland (DSD).

"We hope the restructuring programme will stabilise the system and ensure its survival. We have learned from experience," said Hannjoerg Hereth, chairman of DSD's new Supervisory Board.

The DSD, which grew out of Germany's 1990 package recycling regulations, aims to collect 80 per cent of used packaging and process most of it for reuse.

Consumers are asked to collect bottles, containers and wrappings, clean them and put them in special yellow bins and bags at home for collection every two to four weeks.

The scheme was set up by hundreds of manufacturers and retailers who feared Germans would deluge shops with old boxes, wrapping paper and bottles.

The DSD has been plagued by financial troubles and lack of plastic recycling capacity since the scheme began.

In the latest crisis, the DSD faced a debt of \$70 million marks (\$519.6 million) because only about half of 15,000 firms had handed over their fee for using the DSD's green dot logo showing they had paid for recycling the packaging.

The DSD came under criticism as environmentally-conscious Germans gathered more plastic packaging than it could handle.

These problems followed a series of scandals last year when the collected packaging was found on garbage dumps in France, Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia.

The restructuring programme, aimed mainly at securing DSD's financial base, includes creating a strict monitoring system for paying license fees.

On Oct. 1, the DSD launched a new price system to reflect higher processing costs for plastics and packaging of mixed materials from a standard fee of about two pennies (3.5 cents) per package.

This should help cover high recycling costs for plastic and discourage manufacturers from using packaging that is difficult to reprocess.

To limit its expenditure, the DSD has signed contracts with waste management firms which set a ceiling of 3.2 billion marks (\$1.91 billion) on their annual charges, irrespective of how much packaging the DSD gathers for them to process.

DSD is expanding its capacity and hopes to handle 350,000 tonnes of plastic next year, rising to about 800,000 tonnes by 1996. This compares to about 165,000 tonnes now.

It is also looking at building two plants in former East Germany using new technology to convert used plastic into crude oil or gas — a method regarded as the key technology for the future of reusing plastic.

The government is reviewing

its package recycling rules, which are only the first of a series of laws Mr. Toepfer envisages over the next few years.

"Because of DSD's problems, we have decided to review these proposals a year earlier than planned," said Thomas Rummeler of the Environment Ministry which is drafting similar rules for used cars, batteries, electronics and papers.

Above all, the government is considering allowing up to 30 per cent of packaging to be burned to generate energy instead of reprocessing it all into secondary raw materials.

Asked about Germany's waste exports, which angered neighbouring countries, Mr. Rummeler said: "I think our used products should be allowed to be processed abroad. Only we have to make sure it is recycled and doesn't end in a waste dump or incinerators. If they are processed properly, they can be reused."

There are global markets for secondary materials," he said, adding that Germany imported almost all of its primary raw materials.

However, Guenther Theisen, chief financial official at Germany's largest waste management group RWE Entsorgung said the biggest challenge was to create demand for secondary material, supplies of

which have surged. German supplies of recycled glass, paper and cardboard has

soared in the past two years to more than 12 million tonnes from 7.5 million tonnes.

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## Greek government pledges no new taxes

# THE Daily Crossword by Robert O. Wilson

## ACROSS

- 1 Boorish one
- 5 Exultation of anger
- 10 — pot (teleforce)
- 14 Bean curd
- 15 Miserable dwelling
- 16 Arsenic gulf
- 17 Author Mitne
- 18 Vote into law
- 19 Meritly expense
- 20 Embellished
- 22 Twister
- 23 Deadly poison
- 25 Feed the lotly
- 26 Colorado ski town
- 29 Damage
- 31 System of values
- 35 Madest happy
- 37 Believe to be true
- 38 Alp, to poets
- 39 Willow
- 41 Insane
- 42 Keep
- 45 Kind of sickness
- 46 Bewildered
- 49 Oolong
- 50 Country roads
- 51 Merit
- 53 Leave part
- 55 Increase rapidly
- 58 Tante
- 62 Needle case
- 65 Love greatly
- 68 Ruffian's lake
- 69 British garment
- 70 Owner during Passover
- 76 Hub
- 79 Prayer ending
- 70 Look of hat
- 71 Govt. agents

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## Yesterday's Puzzle Solv:

- 5 Brightness
- 6 Semantics
- 7 A Gabor
- 8 Delicious drink
- 9 Singer John
- 10 Merit
- 11 Concert halls
- 12 Care for
- 13 Informed about
- 21 Real estate
- 23 Ways: abbr.
- 26 Meeting place in Greece
- 27 Freecing rain
- 28 Divides
- 30 Stage whisper
- 32 Person
- 33 Reflection
- 34 Gives up territory
- 38 Long time
- 37 East
- 40 Expunctions
- 43 Wind-blown
- 44 Shakespearian villain
- 46 Narrow cut
- 47 Jumping
- 48 Score
- 52 Ridicule
- 54 Mimics
- 55 Certain ray
- 56 Poem
- 57 Sted
- 58 Unit of weight
- 59 Steep place
- 61 Adolescents
- 64 Poem

## DOWN

- 1 Tendent one
- 2 "Denn"
- 3 "Yankees" name
- 4 In the
- 5 Beginning — eye
- 6 Sleeping place



## Angry India accuses U.S. of tilt to Pakistan over Kashmir

NEW DELHI (R) — Angry and alarmed, India has accused the United States of abandoning its previously even-handed policy on South Asia to favour Pakistan in the dangerous dispute over Kashmir, officials said Saturday.

They said U.S. charge d'affaires Kenneth Brill was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Friday to explain remarks by a senior official in Washington that appeared to question Kashmir's accession to India.

"He said there was no change in U.S. policy on the issue, but was told India regarded the remarks as a tilt towards Pakistan," one Indian official said.

The last time Delhi accused Washington of a tilt to Islamabad was before the last of the three Indo-Pakistan wars that led to Bangladesh independence in 1971. Only recently have Indo-U.S. relations begun to mend.

At the heart of Indian alarm was the reported remark by the Washington official, who spoke to journalists on condition of anonymity, on the question of Kashmir's accession to India.

"We view Kashmir as a disputed territory and that means that we do not recognise that instrument of accession as meaning that Kashmir is forever more an integral part of India," the official was quoted by Indian newspapers as saying.

Officials said that despite an

official statement by the U.S. State Department that the United States respected the territorial integrity of India, the official's remark on the treaty of accession questioned Indian unity.

Scores of nominally independent princely states signed treaties of accession to India or Pakistan when they became independent of Britain in 1947.

Kashmir, a mainly Muslim area ruled by a Hindu maharajah which initially opted for independence, signed when forces invading from Pakistan were on the outskirts of Srinagar, its summer capital.

"The point is that if the Americans are questioning one instrument of accession, they are questioning them all," one Indian official said.

Two of the Indo-Pakistan wars have been over Kashmir and left two-thirds of it in India, where it forms the largely Hindu nation's only Muslim-majority state. The rest is under the control of Islamic Pakistan.

India is adamant that Jammu and Kashmir state is an integral part of the nation and that a settlement of the dispute over it should be settled between Delhi and Islamabad.

Washington is worried that now both countries have the ability to produce nuclear weapons, any miscalculation could trigger a devastating war. Over the last few months it has been pressing for talks to get started.

The two countries have agreed to restart early next year a dialogue suspended in August 1992.

Meanwhile six people were injured when a bomb exploded in a vegetable market in Kashmir town Saturday, the Press Trust of India reported.

The news agency said the explosion occurred in Udhampur, 65 kilometres from the Kashmir winter capital Jammu.

More than 7,000 people have died in the northern Indian state during the past four years in violence related to a Muslim separatist campaign.

The situation has been particularly tense since Oct. 15, when Indian army troops surrounded a mosque in the summer capital Srinagar to flush out Muslim militants from the shrine.

The Indian army siege of Kashmir's Hazratbal Mosque entered a third week Saturday amid hopeful claims of an imminent end to the standoff with the armed Muslim guerrillas.

A mediator for the militants, Yaqub Vakil, said an "amicable solution" was expected later in the day ending the drama.

Senior Kashmiri administration and police sources echoed the hope, adding that another round of negotiations was to be held to put the final touches on a settlement.

Wajahat Habibullah, the government's sole negotiator

in the crisis, told reporters a "positive solution" will be reached very soon.

A police source said the administration had promised "no tough treatment, no harassment" of the militants as part of an agreement.

No other details were immediately available.

The militants have demanded a withdrawal of the thousands of soldiers besieging Hazratbal and safe passage as conditions for a settlement, ruling out a surrender.

The government said its chief concern was to restore the sanctity of the shrine it alleges has been defiled by the armed guerrillas and to free some 60 to 70 civilians trapped in the shrine.

A hair believed to come from the beard of Prophet Muhammad is preserved in a vault inside Hazratbal, or Prophet's Place, which the authorities have long suspected to be a militant sanctuary.

Life in the Kashmir Valley including Srinagar, the hub of Muslim militancy, was meanwhile paralysed for a 15th straight day by a general strike called by rebel groups and clerics to protest the army siege.

The authorities eased a two-week-old curfew clamped over much of this city of 700,000 people, but shops and businesses, educational institutions, banks and post offices remained shuttered and vehicles stayed off the roads.



A luxury home stands in the middle of ashes and brush fires that ripped through Laguna Beach from other luxury homes that were destroyed by California (AFP photo)

## Crews get upper hand on U.S. fires

LOS ANGELES (R) — Fire crews battling some of the worst wildfires in the history of southern California early Saturday appeared to be beating the infernos that destroyed more than 700 homes.

State and local firefighting authorities said they had the upper hand on the blazes that have ravaged the region for three days, but continued that the danger was by no means over.

More than 6,000 firemen launched massive land and air assaults to combat the 13 major blazes.

From the air, tanker aircraft and helicopters soaked the mountains, canyons and

ravines with thousands of gallons of water and flame retardants.

On the ground, firefighters took up shovels and shovels and brought in bulldozers to dig huge trenches. They also set controlled burns to starve the firestorms of fuel.

Authorities estimated that property damage from three days of horrendous fires that swept through five southern California counties amounted to at least \$400 million, and was likely to be much higher.

Calm, cooler weather Friday helped extinguish four wildfires and contain several others after walls of flame levelled exclusive suburbs, des-

troyed homes and scorched 180,000 acres (73,000 hectares) from Los Angeles to the Mexican border.

The outbreak was the first of the southern California fire storms. It started Wednesday on the eastern side of the Santa Monica Mountains and roared west to the Pacific Ocean before heading back towards its point of origin.

Along the way it destroyed ranches in the star colony of Malibu.

One of the property victims was country and western music star Dwight Yoakam whose multimillion dollar ranch house was destroyed.

## Burundi tribal fighting rages on

BUJUMBURA (R) — Hutu and Tutsi tribesmen slaughtered each other in the Burundian countryside more than a week after a collapsed coup, reports arriving in the capital on Saturday said.

Prime Minister Sylvie Kinigi and some of the surviving members of the toppled government, asked by army leaders to take over the running of the Central African nation, remained holed up in the French embassy Saturday.

Burundian journalists said Saturday they had reports from the south that some troops, all

members of the minority Tutsi tribe, were killing tribesmen of the majority Hutus there.

"The main problem is that no one controls the military, juniors (soldiers) do not report to seniors, and the seniors have no government to account to," a Burundian journalist said.

"There is no authority. Practically no operational government, no operational army. It is total anarchy, just slaughter, slaughter," the journalist said.

Witnesses, including this correspondent, Friday saw the bodies of 10 people who had

just been killed in the southern settlement of Mahwa.

Foreign aid workers, the government and witnesses have said several thousand people died in tribal fighting that began after renegade troops seized power on Oct. 21, killing Burundi's first elected President Melchior Ndayaye and six ministers.

The unrest in Bujumbura sparked tribal war as the Hutus sought revenge against their traditional rulers, the Tutsis, for the murder of Mr. Ndayaye.

## 2 Georgian towns fall to rebels

TBILISI (R) — Russian soldiers opened fire Saturday to repulse a rebel attack just hours after they started a risky mission to guard a railway in western Georgia, a Russian military source said.

Georgian radio said government troops had retreated from two nearby towns, Senaki and Khobi, where they are battling rebels who back ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

The Russian source, a well-placed official in Georgia who declined to be identified, denied an earlier report by the Russian News Agency, Interfax, that the Russians had retreated with government forces from Senaki, an important railway town.

He said 11 Russian soldiers guarding a bridge outside Senaki as part of a wider operation to secure the rail route from the Black Sea to the Georgian interior were shelled during the night but did not fight back.

"This morning they (the rebels) attacked with infantry," the source said. "The Russian soldiers returned fire and the attack was repulsed."

Russians came out of the barracks Thursday, after the Kremlin agreed to a request earlier this month from Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, and deployed along the railway line in an operation with government forces.

The Russian brief is to defend the line but not to get involved in fighting, although they have permission to shoot to kill if attacked.

Georgian radio said rebels Friday night started shelling another town, Khobi, as well as Senaki using Grad multiple-launch missiles and other weapons. It said the rebel forces had been using residential areas as a shield.

To avert casualties among the civilian population government forces temporarily left Khobi and Senaki and took up combat positions away from residential areas, it said. "Intensive positional battles are now taking place near Senaki."

Interfax had quoted the Russian military press service in Georgia as saying the Russians had retreated from Senaki when government troops were forced out overnight. It said an unspecified number of civilians had been killed or wounded.

There was no word from the press service on the Interfax report and no independent news on the fighting in the west of Georgia, a tiny republic on the southern rim of the former Soviet empire.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze flew to the region Friday saying rebel groups from Abkhazia, a Black Sea province, and Russia's northern Caucasus had joined Mr. Gamsakhurdia's men to forge a new alliance to counter a government offensive.

But both groups denied having joined Mr. Gamsakhurdia's camp.

## Botha exposes tensions in cabinet

CAPE TOWN (R) — Foreign Minister P. W. Botha has exposed tensions within President F. W. de Klerk's cabinet as South Africa's white government enters the final phase of democracy talks with black and right-wing opponents.

Foreign Minister spokesman Awie Marais confirmed Saturday that Mr. Botha criticised cabinet colleagues at a private National Party campaign dinner this week.

Mr. Botha told questioners at the dinner that the government had bungled the communication of its position concerning a recent army anti-terrorist raid on a black-homeland capital and on sea-sawing petrol prices.

"The government has made some bad mistakes during the past few months and I apologise for them," Mr. Marais quoted Mr. Botha as saying to his dinner companions.

White Liberal opposition leader Zach De Beer said Mr. Botha or the ministers he criticised should quit the cabinet immediately and an African National Congress spokesman said Mr. Botha had undermined the known tensions within Mr. De Klerk's cabinet.

"We have known for a long time that there are serious divisions within the cabinet and this just brings them a bit into the open," ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said.

Mr. Botha was speaking at a

party function arranged to woo affluent supporters ahead of the country's first all-race election, scheduled on April 27.

Delegates to multi-party democracy talks face a Friday deadline for agreement on an interim constitution allowing for a five-year transition from white rule to democracy under an all-race government of national unity.

Party sources and Afrikaner political analysts say Mr. De Klerk's cabinet is divided between moderates including Mr. Botha, who accept the progress made towards majority rule, and hawks who say too much has been given away to Nelson Mandela's ANC.

## Arrest warrant issued for Olivetti chairman

ROME (R) — Italian magistrates Saturday issued an arrest warrant for Olivetti Chairman Carlo De Benedetti, the most distinguished Italian businessman to be drawn into the country's corruption scandal, state television reported.

Mr. De Benedetti, who turned Olivetti SPA from a small-time typewriter firm into an international computer concern, was rumoured to be out of the country and police were searching for him Saturday.

The arrest warrant was issued by magistrates in Rome who were investigating allegations that Mr. De Benedetti was linked to bribes paid to win contracts from the state telephone company, state television said.

Mr. De Benedetti's lawyer,

Marco De Luca, said he did not understand why magistrates were seeking Mr. De Benedetti's arrest because he had always cooperated with judicial authorities in the past.

"De Benedetti has recently shown his willingness to cooperate with magistrates, so I am puzzled as to why they would want to arrest him," Mr. De Luca said in a statement.

Mr. De Benedetti had admitted in the past that his firm had been forced to pay kickbacks to win contracts.

But he defended the move saying it amounted to virtual blackmail since Olivetti would have been unable to win contracts overseas had it not been seen to be a prominent domestic supplier.

## Ghali urges U.S. to maintain lead role in U.N.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali issued an appeal here Friday to the United States to maintain its leadership role in the world body.

In an address to the United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA), Dr. Ghali said he hoped the United States would "fulfill its role in the U.N. and maintain the hard-won prestige and leadership it has won there."

In a clear reference to doubts among the U.S. public over their country's role in U.N. peace enforcement operations in the wake of increasing bloodshed in Somalia, he added: "What is in question is perseverance, commitment and will."

Dr. Ghali also told his audience, including U.S. Vice President Al Gore, that he was "firmly committed to the concept of peace enforcement because it is firmly established in the (U.N.) charter."

He stressed the need to construct a "realistic basis for international relations," something which the United Nations offered a means of doing, although it did not hold all the answers to the problems posed by the increasing number of conflicts worldwide.

"I cannot answer the question of when to begin an enforcement operation... I can give my views on when an operation should stop," he added.

If the conflicts' protagonists showed no political will to end fighting then "peace cannot be enforced," he said.

U.N. operations could not succeed if troops provided would not "accept the discipline of a multinational operation" or if member states were "not ready to stay the course of peace enforcement," he added.

Boutros-Ghali stressed that multilateralism, which to some degree had become a "dirty word," was in his view "an indispensable asset."

He said the passage from one phase of history to another was never easy.

"The present moment is very demanding," he said.

## Fujimori appears to roll back on threat to quit

LIMA (R) — President Alberto Fujimori appeared to roll back on a threat to quit if Peru's voters reject a draft constitution, saying Friday his resignation was a "remote possibility" but that he could take "unexpected measures."

Mr. Fujimori, who has portrayed Peru's first-ever referendum on a constitution to be held Sunday as a plebiscite on his three-year rule, was asked about his statement that he would be forced to resign in the case of a "no" vote.

"This is a remote possibility," he told reporters on a campaign swing in Lima shantytowns. "If I do not receive popular support, I would have to take some steps."

"Although I have not thought about it, I could take some unexpected measures," he said. "If I don't get the support for the reforms, it (the resignation) could happen."

In a television interview Thursday night, Mr. Fujimori said a "no" vote would create political instability in Peru and force him to resign.

Mr. Fujimori dissolved Congress in April 1992, seizing broad powers for himself.

Under international pressure, elections were held for a new Congress last November and the 80-member body drafted a new constitution.

Pollsters have predicted the constitution will be approved with a margin of at least 20 percentage points, although the Apoyo polling firm said the

"no" votes have increased over the last week.

Meanwhile, four jailed Shining Path leaders supported a call by their guerrilla chiefs for peace talks, the president's office said Friday night.

The letter urging militants to denounce "acts of desperation" that could scuttle an accord was revealed minutes before Lima and other coastal cities were plunged into an hour-long blackout.

Officials attributed the power outage to guerrilla attacks on electricity pylons.

During the blackout, Shining Path rebels exploded a bomb in the banking district in San Isidro, causing heavy damage to a state-owned bank but no injuries. A leaflet claiming responsibility for the attack was left at the site.

The letter provided by government palace said: "We support the letters of President Gonzalo and Comrade Miriam written to the president," a reference to rebel chief Abimael Guzman's non-de-guerre and his deputy Elena Iparraguirre.

Mr. Guzman and Ms. Iparraguirre have written two letters to Mr. Fujimori seeking peace talks in the last two months.

The guerrilla letter was revealed two days before Peruvians vote in the constitutional referendum that would open the way for President Fujimori's reelection.

## No funeral for tobacco heiress

NEW YORK (R) — The remains of tobacco heiress and philanthropist Doris Duke, who died at the age of 80, will be cremated and scattered at sea with no funeral service, her spokesman announced Friday.

In a statement, friend and adviser Bernard Lafferty said the request was made by Ms. Duke before her death in Beverly Hills, California. Ms. Duke led a glamorous but stormy life that included well-publicised love affairs, jet-setting trips around the world and frequent gifts to charity.

Ms. Duke was dubbed "the richest girl in America," when in 1925 she inherited the 25 million fortune of her father J.B. "Buck" Duke, who had founded the American Tobacco Co., forerunner to the American Brands Conglomerate.

That fortune is now worth an estimated \$750 million to \$1 billion. The statement said that people wishing to pay their respects should do so by making a contribution to the Doris Duke Foundation. Ms. Duke had recently made large donations to Duke University, founded by her father, for AIDS research, and also made a \$1 million contribution to the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation.

## The oldest U.S. citizen turns 115

RADFORD, Virginia (AFP) — The oldest living American has turned 115. Margaret Skeete, who celebrated her 115th birthday Wednesday, says she does nothing to protect her health and is unimpressed by her impressive longevity.

Asked her secret, daughter Verne Taylor answered for her mother, "don't get any exercise. Don't drink any water. Don't eat any green vegetables. But eat plenty of sweets." "Make sure you leave me some cake," added Ms. Skeete, who was born in 1878 near Corpus Christi, Texas. Denise Jack, a spokeswoman for the Guinness Book of World Records, said Mrs. Skeete was the oldest living American. The oldest living person in the world is Jeanne Calment, 118, of France, she said.

## U.K. government give pub-keepers their head

LONDON (AFP) — British pub-keepers are going to be able to put a head on their tap beer, following the government's withdrawal of a plan to force them to fill glasses with exactly one pint (0.569 litre) of beer, without "cheating" with a spot of foam. But the glasses will have to contain at least 95 per cent liquid, all the same.

Consumer associations immediately denounced the heady decision, saying the government had caved in to pressure from brewers, which had campaigned strongly against the change. They said it would lead to an increase of six to seven pence per pint. "If customers are unhappy with the amount of liquid beer they have received, they are already able to ask for, and should get, a top-up" secretary of state for trade Patrick McLoughlin commented.

## Indonesia cool on Dewi Sukarno nude picture

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia has reacted coolly to a plan by Dewi Sukarno, widow of the late President Sukarno, to publish a book of mostly nude photographs of herself, the official Antara News Agency reported.

"It is a personal matter of the person concerned and there is no need to link it to her position as a former wife of the first Indonesian president," State Secretary Mardiono was quoted as saying by the agency Saturday. Mr. Mardiono said the issue was only a trivial matter to Indonesia.

Local newspapers said the Japanese-born Dewi planned to publish in Tokyo a book entitled Syurga — Superior in Elegance — showing nude pictures of her. Sukarno married Dewi, a trained Geisha originally named Naoko Nemoto, in 1962 and changed her name to the one he gave her — Ratna Sari Dewi. Dewi, 53, was the youngest of Sukarno's six wives and one of two surviving widows. Dewi, who moved to Paris after Sukarno's death in 1970 and became an international socialist, told an Indonesian magazine last month she was considering becoming a Japanese citizen again because of what she described as shabby treatment by the Indonesian government.

She said she was disappointed that the Indonesian government failed to pay her compensation.

## EC leaders vow plenty but pledge little

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) leaders have declared the 12-nation bloc re-launched, but they have done little to solve the problem of unemployment and tackled most difficult issues for sake of appearances.

The heads of state and government announced after their special summit Friday that a new dawn was approaching for the bloc with the coming into force of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union on Nov. 1.

"We can claim we've done a good day's work for Europe," Belgian Prime Minister and current EC President Jean-Luc Dehaene said after the meeting.

"This council has given a fresh impetus to Europe on the eve of the Maastricht Treaty coming into force. It has clearly shown the desire of all member states to relaunch Europe by implementing the treaty," he said.

But the EC leaders made scant reference to finely balanced talks to open up world trade, made no progress on Yugoslavia, and ignored the divisive issue of the balance of power within the bloc as it expands to take in new members.

They did the bare minimum to begin boosting their economies and finding jobs for some of the 17 million unemployed,

simply broadening the scope of a special eight billion European Currency Unit (\$9.2 billion) loan scheme and offering soft loans for small firms.

But beyond that they contented themselves with deplored the high level of unemployment and insisting that the European Commission and finance ministers come up with concrete ideas by December.

The one issue on which they did finally make a decision — the sites of numerous new EC institutions — nearly caused their new-found unity to crack at the first test when Spain complained bitterly that it was not getting fair share.

"The good schoolboys in the European class get punished and the difficult children get rewards," a diplomat quoted Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez as saying in an exchange with British Prime Minister John Major.

But fully aware that newspaper headlines would have trumpeted the summit's failure had it not agreed on the institutional share-out — a process one diplomat described as everyone taking a present home from a party — the EC leaders finally persuaded Spain to come into line.

The final share-out gives Frankfurt the embryo EC Central Bank, the European Monetary Institute, with Spain

winning the Trademark Office and the Agency for Health and Safety at Work.

The Environment Agency went to Denmark, Britain got the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, the Netherlands got the new European police body Europol, Italy and Greece each got a training institute. Portugal got the European Drugs Observatory, Dublin got a veterinary inspection office, and Luxembourg got the commission's translation service.

But much as they swept the bloc's economic and employment crisis under the carpet until December, the EC leaders restricted themselves to words rather than deeds on the touchy issue of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade despite having barely six weeks to resolve their differences.

They also steered well clear of the contentious subject of how the balance of power within the Community may be changed if Finland, Austria, Sweden and Norway join.

France in particular, worried that its influence in the bloc might be diluted as new members join wants to change the voting structure. But the smaller states and the applicants are strongly resisting any such change.

## Piccard breaks French giant slalom drought

SOELDEN, Austria (R) — Franck Piccard became the first Frenchman in 20 years to win an Alpine Ski World Cup giant slalom when he took first place in the opening race of the season Saturday.

Piccard, 29, almost gave up ski racing after a disappointing last season but decided to go on for his 10th season.

His time of one minute 56.32 seconds down the Rettenbach Glacier vindicated that decision.

Sweden's Fredrik Nyberg, who last won a giant slalom in Mount Hutt in 1970, finished second in 1:56.44, ahead of world champion Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway who clocked 1:56.56 on the powder snow which became slower as the race went on.

But there was disappointment for Olympic champion Alberto Tomba who had only just recovered from a knee injury. Lying third after the first leg, the Italian caught a gate pole with his left ski on the second leg and fell.

Reigning overall World Cup champion Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, taking part in his 331st cup event, finished fourth in 1:56.58 after skiing the second-fastest first leg through the 43 gates.

Piccard, who had never done better than fourth in a World Cup giant slalom before, became the first Frenchman to win in the discipline since Henri Duvillard in 1973.

The 1988 Olympic super-giant slalom achieved a similar feat three years ago when he broke a French downhill drought which had lasted for 20 years since a victory by

Duvillard.

France's women have had more success than the men in giant slalom in recent years and Carole Merle is the current world champion.

"This win is a sort of new burst for me. Last season was so disappointing, so frustrating," Piccard said.

Nyberg, who was seventh after the first leg, had the fastest second leg with 56.64 seconds, five-hundredths quicker than Piccard, and said he had been more relaxed on the second run, which also had 43 gates.

"I had a great second run and I proved I'm in good shape," said Nyberg whose best giant slalom results last season were two third places, in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, and Oppdal, Norway.

Aamodt had said before the race that he was not feeling in top form and he was more than pleased with his third place.

"My timing was still off in the first run but I was more aggressive in the second," he said.

Girardelli, who started training for the season later than usual after an injury, said he had hoped to hold on to his second place after the first leg.

"I lost time in the bottom part of both runs," said Girardelli, who clocked the fastest intermediate times in both legs.

"But I'm usually a slow starter in the season and I don't remember ever having got off to such a good start as now," Girardelli said.



Middle East rookie Richie Holford of Ireland with his Ford Escort takes second place in the Oman International Rally

## UAE's Saleh wins Oman Rally

MUSCAT (AP) — Michel Saleh of the United Arab Emirates cruised to victory Friday in the 676-kilometre (422.5-mile) Oman International Rally, leaving the Middle East Championship poised for an exciting final round in Dubai in December.

Saleh, who led the two-day rally overnight by almost eight minutes, eased to victory here in his Toyota Celica with a more than 11-minute margin over Middle East rookie Richie Holford of Ireland in a Ford Escort.

"It was easy for me. I made some mistakes because I was going slowly (to make sure of victory) but there was no problem," said the Lebanese-born

Saleh who now holds second place in the six-round Middle East Championship.

"There will be more competition in Dubai and more drivers but I am confident about taking the championship."

With pre-rally favourite Nasser Khalifa Al Attiyah of Qatar sensationally going out of the event with transmission problems on Thursday's first stage, Qatar's Sheikh Hamad Al Thani, who finished seventh overall here in a Mitsubishi Galant, is now the championship leader from favourite Saleh.

Abdullah Bakhshab, who took third place here in a Toyota Celica, said he had been inspired by the Saudi

Arabian soccer team's qualification for the World Cup finals following its 4-3 victory over Iran in Doha Thursday.

"I am very proud. I was almost in tears at the end of the match," said the Jeddah driver, who watched the game on television here.

Of the 27 crews who started the high-speed rally Thursday, only 11 finished as the Oman International's rugged 22-stage route through valleys, hills and plains took its toll on the cars.

Oman's national champion Abdul Rahman Al Kamali, third overnight, went out of the rally Friday when his Toyota Celica's steering arm broke.

## Australians plan to shut down Maradona

SYDNEY (AP) — A revamped Argentine team headed by Diego Maradona will attempt to restore lost pride when it faces Australia in a World Cup qualifying soccer match Sunday night at the Sydney Football Stadium.

But Australian coach Eddie Thomson said Saturday that he had devised a tactical plan aimed at stopping veteran Maradona from dictating the flow of the game.

Australia and Argentina will meet Sunday and on Nov. 17 in Buenos Aires with the winner on aggregate advancing to the 1994 finals in the United States.

"All we can do to stop Maradona is to try and stop the supply of ball to him," Thomson said. "If we pay him too much attention then (striker) Gabriel Batistuta or Abel Balbo could run riot."

"Defensively we are good and I reckon we've got the right balance."

Two-time champion Argentina was forced into the playoff against the unheralded Australians after suffering a humiliating 5-0 defeat at home to Colombia last month.

Argentina won the cup in 1986 and was runner-up in 1990, while Australia only has qualified once — back in 1974.

Argentine coach Alfio Basile will field a new-look team against the underdog Australians with 33-year-old Maradona leading the way from midfield.

Maradona, who was banned

from international soccer for 15 months after failing a drug test in 1991, has looked positive in training despite having played only two games since being sacked by Spanish club Seville in June.

The Argentines will be without defender Oscar Ruggeri and midfielder Diego Simeone, who are suspended, and the starting lineup is expected to show six changes from the team beaten by Colombia.

Australia, led by a number of European-based professionals, is quietly confident of causing an upset and annoyed by what the players perceive as a lack of respect from their Argentine rivals.

"It's all nonsense, them saying that they respect us," said fullback Jason Van Der Klauw. "I have a feeling they think they can treat us with contempt. If they do, they are in for a big surprise."

"Physically and mentally we are ready for them. We will grasp the initiative early and play the game our way."

Goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, who plays for Aston Villa in England and has had only 48 hours to adjust to Australian conditions, performed impressively in a training session Saturday morning.

"Mark has exceptional organisation skills and agility," said Thomson. "He's so motivated."

Thomson will not reveal until shortly before kickoff which one of his players will mark

Maradona.

He also has to decide between defensive midfielder Paul Wade and English-based striker David Mitchell in his starting lineup.

"We have to attack as we did against Canada and put Argentina on the back foot," said attacking midfielder Aurelio Vidmar. "If we can score, I think they'll drop their heads."

"If we sit back and let them take control they can hold the ball for three weeks. We have to go at them and get a result to take to South America."

Midfielder Robbie Slater, who plays for French club RC Lens, said the Australians have great faith in their own ability.

"Gone are the days when people only talked about the guts and determination of Australian teams," he said. "We can knock the ball around, too. And we'll make it hard for them."

Thomson will use a defence comprising Bosnich, Tony Vidmar, Van Der Klauw, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin and Mehmet Durakovic.

The midfield is expected to be Slater, Ned Zelic and Aurelio Vidmar, with Wade or Mitchell filling the other spot alongside striker Graham Arnold.

Basile had called up Sergio Vazquez and uncapped duo Carlos MacCallister and Jose Chamot in Defence, while Maradona, midfielder Hugo Perez and striker Balbo also have been recalled in his provisional team.

## Win keeps Timman's chess title hopes alive

JAKARTA (Agencies) — Jan Timman of the Netherlands scored a dramatic and unexpected victory over Russia's Anatoly Karpov in the 20th game of the World Chess Championship Saturday to keep his slim hopes for the world title alive.

Timman's victory was greeted by wild applause from the large crowd in Jakarta who had expected to see the match end Saturday.

"It was a good game — but not by him," an overjoyed Timman said as he left the playing hall surrounded by back-slapping spectators.

Karpov needed only to draw with Timman to take the world title but the desperate Dutchman played his best game of the match to destroy Karpov's defences and keep the match alive.

Karpov still leads the match 12 points to 8, leaving Timman needing four more victories to tie the match which began in the Netherlands almost eight weeks ago and moved to Indonesia for the second half.

A large group of Russian tourists who had flown in to Jakarta from Moscow to watch their compatriot take the world title left the game stunned while Dutch supporters were jubilant.

"I enjoyed myself immensely today," said Dutch journalist Yvette Nagel. "Unfortunately I don't believe that Timman can win the next four games."

"It was not a fun game," a depressed Karpov aide Ron Henley admitted. "Jan played virtually flawlessly."

Despite playing with the disadvantage of the black pieces, Timman decided to force Karpov to earn his final half point rather than concede the match with a Short draw as many had expected.

Karpov, having arrived six minutes late, began the game with a conservative English opening, but nervous play soon gave Timman the initiative.

The Dutchman exchanged into an endgame with rooks and queens in which Karpov's king was exposed and pushed home his advantage with ruthless efficiency.

Karpov finally extended his hand to Timman in resignation after 40 moves and five hours of play.

The match between Karpov, ranked second in the world, and Timman, ranked only 31st, has been beset by difficulties over prize money and often overshadowed by a rival, unofficial contest in London.

Karpov and Timman are playing for the official world championship because Karpov, the current world number one, and England's Nigel Short, ranked 9th, broke away from the World Chess Federation to organise a more lucrative contest which concluded in Karpov's favour last week.

Karpov was stripped of his world title by the World Chess Federation in April but still claims to be the true world champion.

The next game will be played with Monday Timman having the advantage of the white pieces.

Meanwhile, Karpov and Short won the first battle in the world chess war with a heavily hyped \$2 million breakaway championship which showed that a game for eggheads can work on television.

But the World Chess Federation, FIDE, which has staged every championship since 1948, isn't surrendering — even though it was forced to cut the prize money and scramble for a new venue during its rival title match between Karpov and Timman.

For the first time in history, the chess world is deeply divided and there will be two world champions.

Karpov, the highest-rated player in chess history, won the first Professional Chess Association crown and about \$956,250 (\$1.43 million) on Oct. 21. Karpov, who lost to Short in a qualifying match, is expected to clinch the FIDE title and \$440,000 if he beats Timman.

While boxing fans accept several rival titleholders, many top chess players are upset about the split and would like to see a reconciliation.

"It's been a clash of personalities and money has played a big role," said Nathan Divins-

ky, president of the Commonwealth Chess Association and Canada's zonal FIDE president.

Last February, Karpov and Short refused to play their title match for FIDE, denouncing the federation as corrupt, bureaucratic and inept. Much of their venom was reserved for FIDE's president, Florencio Campomanes.

To stage their match, they set up the Professional Chess Association (PCA) with the aim of making the top rung of competitive chess as lucrative as professional golf or tennis.

The Times newspaper, which put up most of the £1.7 million (\$2.55 million) prize money, insists its sponsorship paid off.

"This has been the most talked about event with which the Times has been associated since the first assault on Mount Everest" in 1953, said editor Peter Stothard.

New York attorney Bob Rice, the PCA's first commissioner, said the Karpov-Short match had taken some "historic strides" toward commercialising chess.

"Most important, by far, we proved that chess does work on TV, does attract a highly desirable audience, and does hold that audience," he said. "We can prove now beyond a shadow of a doubt the commercial value of chess."

Britain broadcast 60 hours of chess, and millions of viewers tuned in coverage of the match in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The PCA has a busy schedule of events planned for the next year.

Rice said 46 of the world's 52 top players had accepted invitations to compete in a PCA qualifying match in Groningen, Netherlands, in December, with a prize fund of \$250,000.

The association plans to sponsor five speed-chess events in 1994 in New York, London, Paris, Moscow and Milan, each with \$200,000 in prize money, he said. Two further qualifying rounds will also be held next year, "and there's a good chance one will be in Munich," he said.

## AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Following are the results of games played Friday, Oct. 29 and the standings of the teams up to that date.

SENIORS	2	VS	Champions	2
Fordboro	2	VS	Amer. Kitch	0
MIDS				
Intervec	2	VS	Al Hikma	1
Pengost	4	VS	ASC	1
JUNIORS II				
Milase	1	VS	Nash/Ebb	1
Junghans	6	VS	Pepsi	1
JUNIOR I				
La Ciozna	2	VS	Modern Schools	0
Al Zay	0	VS	UPS	0

### STANDINGS

SENIORS			
Austrian Airlines	14		
American Kitchen	11		
Fordboro	8		
Champions	5		
MIDS			
Intervec	21		
Pengost	10		
Al Hikma	7		
ASC	2		
JUNIOR II			
Milase	14		
Junghans	14		
Nash/Ebb/Ebbini	8		
Pepsi	3		
JUNIORS I			
La Ciozna	14		
Modern Schools	8		
UPS	7		
EL ZAY	7		

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI  
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### TAKE EVERY TRICK

East-West vulnerable. East deals.	hearts would have been touch-and-go, depending on how declarer played the clubs. We would probably have followed the percentages and gone down by taking the finesse for the jack of clubs — unless some nebulous clue could be drawn from why, when first we broached the suit by leading low to the queen, South won the ace instead of making the standard backup play.
NORTH ♠ J 9 7 4 2 ♥ 4 3 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ 5 4 3	
WEST ♠ 6 ♥ K J 9 8 6 5 ♦ K 5 ♣ 10 9 7 2	EAST ♠ A K 10 8 3 ♥ Q 7 2 ♦ 3 ♣ K Q 8 6
SOUTH ♠ Q 5 ♥ A 10 ♦ Q J 10 9 8 4 2 ♣ A	
The bidding: East South West North 1♠ 2♦ 3♥ Pass 4♥ 5♦ 6♠ Pass	

Opening lead: Six of ♠.  
Only one woman was among the 50 players who qualified for the final two rounds of the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams at the recent Fall North American Championships in Orlando, Fla. She was Rita Singart of Pebble Beach, Calif., who sat East on this deal from the semi-final round. See if you can equal her defense.  
West's jump to three hearts was invitational, not forcing. Four

## Ivanisevic downs Washington in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Goran Ivanisevic, playing near flawless tennis, breezed into the final of the \$1.65 million Stockholm open for the second straight year Saturday with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Malvivi Washington.

Ivanisevic, the defending champion, was never challenged by the unseeded Washington in a match that

lasted just one hour and seven minutes.

The tall, hard-serving Croatian did everything right. As usual, he served well, hitting 10 aces for a total of 55 in four matches here. His returns were also sharp and his back court game sparkling.

"I played really great," Ivanisevic said. "I haven't hit so many down-the-line winners in

my life."

"Everything worked today. Not only the serve. I just hit the ball very hard and everything went in."

Ivanisevic, seeded No. 8, broke Washington in the opening game on the fast green set carpet to set the tone of the match. Washington was also broken at the start of the second set.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Sudan accuses U.S. of interference

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Foreign Minister Suleiman Abu Salih on Saturday accused the United States of interference in Sudanese domestic affairs by sponsoring the right of self-determination for southern Sudan. Abu Salih, who was abroad during a recent official campaign against the United States, was quoted Saturday by the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) as saying a seminar held recently in Washington entitled "Sudan, the forgotten tragedy" amounted to "open interference" in Sudan's affairs by the U.S. government. He charged that Washington used the seminar to pressure the factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to agree on demanding self-determination for southern Sudan. Mr. Abu Salih said he believed that self-determination implied separation of southern Sudan and ultimate disintegration of the country.

## British supporter visits exiles

MARJ AL ZOUBOUR, — The chairman of a British support group for the Palestinian exiles in South Lebanon visited their camp Saturday. The 215 exiles are to be repatriated by Dec. 17, one year after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories to South Lebanon. The others have already returned in stages. But Stuart Bruce, a public relations consultant who heads a Committee for the Palestinian Deportees based in the northern English city of Leeds, said their return was not guaranteed. "There is a slim possibility that their return could be delayed. Israel could change its mind," he said in the Marj Al Zoubour camp.

## U.N. experts leave Iraq, find no items

BAGHDAD (R) — Weapons inspectors left Iraq on Saturday, saying the longest and biggest U.N. hunt for banned armaments had not turned up anything on the prohibited list. The 50 experts have been scanning the country for a month, using advanced helicopters and high-tech sensors trying to detect possible storage facilities for banned armament. "The findings are that we have not found any prohibited items," team leader Nikita Smidovich told reporters. "This will be reported to the executive chairman and through him to the Security Council," he added before departure.

## Palestinian teachers may regain jobs

KUWAIT (R) — Four hundred Palestinian residents of Kuwait have won preliminary approval for their applications to regain teaching jobs they lost after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, a teacher's union leader said in remarks published Saturday. Ahmad Al Houli, chairman of the Kuwait Teachers' Society, was quoted by the English-language Arab Times as saying Education Minister Ahmad Al Rubei had given approval in principle to the job applications. He said Mr. Rubei had indicated final approval was conditional on the applicants' residency permits being in order. "A statement containing the names of these teachers was submitted to the minister during the society's recent board meeting," Mr. Houli was quoted as saying. In their applications the teachers had confirmed their loyalty to Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation and had confirmed that they had extended "the necessary help" to Kuwaitis in that period, Mr. Houli was quoted as saying.

## Kuwait tanker firm sees \$200m fraud

KUWAIT (R) — Losses from fraud at the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) may amount to \$200 million, a newspaper reported on Saturday. "Documented embezzled sums are estimated at \$90 million, (but) I think the number will reach \$200 million when investigations are concluded," Al Qabas newspaper quoted KOTC Chairman and Managing Director Abdullah Al Rumi as saying. "Most of the suspects were abroad or escaped just hours before the issue was turned to the public prosecution (in December 1992)." Al Qabas quoted Mr. Rumi as saying. Oil Minister Ali Al Bughli last December said investigations into the KOTC revealed losses running into millions of dollars.

## Iran arrests 190 for 'social corruption'

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian police have arrested 190 people this month on charges of selling alcoholic drinks and renting out "decadent" video cassettes. Kayhan newspaper said Saturday. More than 60,000 litres of alcohol, some 4,500 videos and 1,000 pictures have also been seized as part of a crackdown on "social corruption" in Iran, it said. It was not clear whether the confiscated videos and pictures were hard core pornography or more mainstream productions deemed indecent in the Islamic republic.

## Kabul condemns U.N. apathy

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan Foreign Minister Hidayat Amin Arsalan on Saturday condemned the United Nations and Western countries for their apathy towards financing his country's reconstruction. "The U.N. is using the security situation in Afghanistan as a pretext in order not to send the necessary assistance," said Mr. Arsalan, who returned to Kabul on Friday after a month-long official visit to the United States where he addressed the U.N. General Assembly in New York. The foreign minister's comments followed a recent announcement by the world body of reconstruction assistance for the country worth \$600 million. "Without economic revival and a start in reconstruction, we will not be able to achieve full security," he insisted, adding that the U.N. assistance should be regarded as part of a larger strategy for aid to Afghanistan.

## Kuwaiti court delays Bush plot verdict

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti court decided on Saturday to postpone until Dec. 25 its verdict in an alleged Iraqi-backed plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush to guarantee a fair trial.

Judge Salah Al Fahd, chairman of the State Security Court, announced the decision at the end of a 15-minute session in which the verdict had been expected against the 11 Iraqis and three Kuwaiti suspects.

"This is an important trial, and to guarantee a fair trial and that the accused are treated fairly, it has been decided to postpone the verdict until Dec. 25," he said.

Amid tight security, the 14 defendants were in court in the metal cage used since the trial opened on June 5.

Mr. Fahd said more time was needed to examine the 1,700 pages making up the "Bush case." "We don't want to condemn innocent people. On the contrary, we're trying to find the least proof of their innocence," he said.

"The accused are in good hands, despite their nationality, and no external factor will be able to influence the trial," pledged the judge, in answer to criticism of the trial.

But defence lawyers warned Friday that the court was likely to pass stiff verdicts, with at least four of the Iraqis facing death sentences.

The suspects are accused of planning to carry out a car-bomb attack on Mr. Bush, at the orders of the Iraqi intelligence service, on April 14 during his visit to the emirate. Baghdad has denied any involvement in the attack, which the Kuwaiti authorities said they foiled by unearthing the bomb and rounding up the suspects.

Two Iraqis, Raad Abdul Amir Al Assadi and Wali Abdul Hadi Al Ghazali, have acknowledged links with Iraqi intelligence, while another two, Salem and Bandar Al Shemmari, confessed to transporting explosives, lawyers said.

In June, three months after the trial opened, Prosecutor General Badr Messad demanded the death sentence for all 11 Iraqis and one of the Kuwaitis. He sought 10-year prison terms against the other two.

The proof of Iraq's key role was irrefutable, following investigation of the car-bomb to be used in the assassination, he argued.

Most of the accused in the Bush plot have denied any involvement or links with Iraq. Three defendants protested that their confessions were extracted by police beatings.

Amnesty International has criticised the trial as unfair and charged the security court did not meet international standards.

A U.S. Cruise missile attack on Baghdad, in retaliation for the alleged assassination plot, also jeopardised the chances of a fair trial, Amnesty argued.

Six people were killed in the June 27 attack on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters, according to Baghdad.



JORDAN RIVER DESIGNS: Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday tours the annual Save the Children fall exhibition after opening it. The exhibition displays products from the Bani Hamida weaving project and the Jordan River Designs. This year's Bani Hamida collection of rugs highlights the warm colors of autumn, blending the traditional with the modern, and drawing upon the history of bedouin weaving and the cultural heritage of women in Jordan (Petra photo)

## Oakley to give new impetus to Somali reconciliation efforts

## Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — U.S. envoy Robert Oakley headed to Somalia to try to break a stalemate in the peace process, and an uneasy calm returned to the capital Mogadishu Saturday, a day after clan militia fought each other across the city.

Mr. Oakley was returning to Somalia to try to ensure that a ceasefire holds in Mogadishu and to give new impetus to efforts at political reconciliation, U.S. officials said.

Mr. Oakley is due to arrive in Mogadishu on Monday and expects to be in the region for a week.

Mr. Oakley has no plans to meet General Mohammad Farah Aideded — a major warlord Washington at one time blamed for most of the violence in Mogadishu — but will have contact with members of his clan.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali wants to arrange a Somali peace conference that excludes General Aideded, blamed by the United Nations for the killing

of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers on June 5, officials said.

But a group of African leaders working closely with the U.S. and led by Ethiopia's leader Meles Zenawi insist such a conference should be attended by all factions including Gen. Aideded.

"That's the only way out and we hope Ambassador Oakley will help bridge the gap between our views and those of the U.N.," an African diplomat said.

In Mogadishu on Saturday an uneasy calm prevailed, a day after clan fighting outside the Safahi Hotel, where foreign reporters stay, in which the U.N. said five Somalis and an Italian civilian were wounded.

"Apart from some small arms fire last night there were no reports of any major incidents in the city," U.N. spokesman Captain Tim McDavitt told reporters.

Friday's fighting brought to 55 the number of Somalis wounded in inter-clan fighting this week. Up to 50 were wounded on Monday and Tuesday during heavy clashes

between supporters of Gen. Aideded and rival warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad.

Dr. Ghali said in an interview published in Saturday's Washington Post that the U.N. mission to Somalia is doomed to failure if U.S. forces pull out before a peace plan has been implemented.

He said that if the United States and other countries halted their efforts to disarm the warring plans, the warlords would realise that the world was not determined for peace to be restored.

"They will fight each other again," he declared.

U.S. President Bill Clinton announced earlier this month that U.S. forces would be repatriated by March 31 next year at the latest.

In a speech on Friday to the U.N. Association of the United States (UNA-USA) he warned that U.N. operations could not succeed if member states were "not ready to stay the course of peace enforcement."

Dr. Ghali defended his decision to visit Somalia last week, against the advice of Washington.

## 8 sentenced to death in Egypt

HAEKSTAP (Agencies) — A military court sentenced eight Muslim extremists including an army conscript to death Saturday for attempting to overthrow the government and attacking soldiers to steal their weapons.

The death verdicts bring to 39 the number sentenced to hang by military courts since President Hosni Mubarak began referring cases of accused Muslim radicals to the tribunals last December.

Defendants' families screamed and cried as the verdicts were announced, shouting abuse at the judges and accusing them of being unfair. Police, guarding the courtroom in force at a military camp in a desert area, intervened and removed all family members from the court.

The 54 defendants involved in Saturday's trial, including seven at large, were accused of belonging to the Vanguard of Conquest, which the government says is a revival of the Jihad group that assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981. Two who received death

sentences are fugitives.

Another man charged in the case, Nazih Noshi Rashid, was injured in an August bomb attempt on the life of Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi. Five people died in the bombing and Rashid succumbed to his injuries the next day.

Early this year the government announced the arrests of hundreds of alleged members of the same banned extremist group. Due to the large number of defendants, they were divided into four groups on the basis of specific charges.

Two defendants, Khawil Mohammed Barakat and Fathi Ahmad Hazim, wore red war-movie suits to the trial, a sign they expected death sentences. People sentenced to death in Egypt usually are assigned red clothing.

Both men received what they expected.

The army conscript, Abdullah Mohammad, was among six defendants convicted of killing a truck driver and his assistant to steal their vehicle. Another six were found to have attacked a guard at the

Saudi Arabian embassy and two others elsewhere in Cairo and stole their weapons.

The defendants, meanwhile, shouted slogans insisting that the holy struggle to turn Egypt into an Islamic state continues.

"Islamic, Islamic, Egypt will soon be Islamic," they chanted. "The more you kill us, the more we will kill martyrdom."

A handwritten statement that a defendant handed to the Associated Press from behind the bars of the courtroom defendants' cage, purporting to express the feelings of all of them, said death does not frighten those in the Islamic movement.

"Death sentences are nothing but a force that pushes us forward," it said. "The movement that requires death gains life and will not let the blood of martyrs go without revenge."

In addition to the eight men sentenced to hang, the court-martial gave six defendants life sentences, which means 25 years in Egypt. Twenty-five were sent to prison for terms of three to 20 years.

## U.N. warns of tougher Haiti sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council warned Saturday that it could take tougher sanctions against Haiti if a plan to restore democracy continues to be blocked.

The warning came the day exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was to have been reinstated under a U.N.-brokered peace plan between Mr. Aristide and the Haitian military which ousted him in September 1991.

At present the U.N. has imposed an arms and oil embargo on the impoverished country.

Earlier this week Mr. Aristide called for a total embargo.

The Security Council blamed the Haitian military leaders for the current impasse on returning the country to democracy.

"General (Raoul) Cedras and the military authorities have not so far fulfilled their obligations," said the council.

The council supported the call from special U.N. envoy Daniel Capois for the military and Aristide-appointed Prime Minister Robert Malval to meet next week to try and solve the problem.

However, neither side has agreed yet to the meeting. Mr. Capois stressed that there would be no renegotiating the so-called Governors Island agreement and that the talks would be aimed at resolving disputes which have blocked its application.

The council said the military and its supporters "fostered and perpetuated in Haiti a political and security environment" that prevented Mr. Aristide's return.

Mr. Aristide compounded his problems, however, by advocating a seat for Taiwan in the United Nations when he addressed the general assembly Thursday.

As a result China blocked the council's issuing of the statement late Friday, demanding an explanation from Mr. Aristide.

In a compromise, Haiti's U.N. delegation drew up a diplomatic note to be issued to all U.N. members that will confirm China's status at the United Nations. Taiwan was ousted from the United Nations in 1971 when the assembly voted to give China's seat to Beijing.

Mr. Aristide, in a major speech to the U.N. General Assembly Thursday, prominently mentioned Taiwan and no one is certain what prompted him to do so.

As he began his address he said, "I cannot overlook all the other friends who are so dear to our hearts, those in the Caribbean, in America, in Europe and Asia who have given us such a warm-hearted welcome."

"We are thinking particularly of the republic of China, Taiwan, which, it is our hope, will regain its place in the great family of the United Nations."

Taiwan recently has been wooing Central American and Caribbean states. A number of them earlier this month asked the assembly to consider giving Taiwan separate U.N. membership. But China strongly objected to the move and the item failed even to get onto the assembly's agenda.

In a Haiti related action, France has drawn up a resolution imposing a total trade embargo on Haiti to supplement the oil and arms sanctions now in place.

## COLUMN

## Madrid suburb makes bid for Lenin's corpse

MADRID (AP) — Lenin may be unwelcome in Moscow these days, but residents of a working-class Madrid neighborhood say they'd be glad to have his embalmed cadaver as a tourist attraction. Representatives of the neighborhood association of Parla, a bleak bedroom community on Madrid's southern outskirts, met with Russian diplomats this week, who promised that if the body of the father of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution left Russia, Parla "would be the first to know," association spokesman Florencio Aguado said Friday. "The idea came up when the Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin said they were going to remove the mausoleum and corpse from Red Square," Mr. Aguado told Spanish National Radio (RNE). "It seems like a good idea to bring it to Parla to draw tourists." The association says that if Lenin's cadaver makes it to Parla, the city would set up a mausoleum and charge admission. The plan, however, has not met with a warm reception from city hall, which is controlled by the conservative Popular Party, and some city officials have referred to Mr. Aguado as a neophiliac, RNE said. The insults appear to have left Mr. Aguado combative, if not discouraged. "It's not that they're jealous," he said. "It's just that they're short in stature and imagination." Russian government officials, including the mayor of Moscow, have proposed moving Lenin's body out of Red Square, most likely to a plot next to his mother's grave in St. Petersburg.

## Researchers unlock 2 AIDS secrets

PARIS (AFP) — French researchers this week announced two breakthroughs they hope will lead to development of an anti-AIDS vaccine, unveiling how the virus enters the human organism. In Paris Monday, Pasteur Institute virologist Ara Hovanessian told how he and his team of researchers had managed to identify a new cell receptor constituting the "front door" through which the HIV (human immune deficiency) virus enters the organism. And in Marseille the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) announced its scientists had discovered a molecular structure capable of blocking the AIDS virus from the cells it normally infects. Dr. Hovanessian said that up till now virologists thought there was a single receptor on a cell, known as CD4. "In fact there are two, the CD4, but also the CD26." He said the CD26 recognised "keys" on one of the most important parts of the virus and these "keys" were identical for all versions of the HIV virus. "It would suffice to change the locks to stop the virus getting into the cell," Dr. Hovanessian said. These advances should in the long term permit researchers to develop drugs or a vaccine capable of preventing the virus from entering and thus halting HIV infection, he said. Dr. Hovanessian said the virus was like a ship's cargo seeking dock. It needed first a mooring point — the CD4 receptor — and then a crane CD26 — to unload the virus cargo.

## U.K. MPs approve ordination of women

LONDON (AP) — The House of Commons approved the Church of England's plan to ordain women priests. "We shall live to see the day when a woman Archbishop of Canterbury greets a pope in a church that has ordained women," Labour Party lawmaker Tony Benn told lawmakers who voted 215 to 21 in favour of the plan. If the House of Lords, parliament's unelected chamber, votes Tuesday to approve the plan and Queen Elizabeth II agrees, 1,350 women deacons will become eligible for ordination probably in 1994. Friday's debate included impassioned pleas by opponents who reject the ordination of women. Department of Environment Secretary John Gummer warned the change would prove to be the first of many for the church, which had sold out to "access religion." "This won't be the only step along this road. There are a whole series of other measures that come behind this," Mr. Gummer said.

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